MAGN
CHARTA

# A NEW HISTORY OF ENGLAND;

FROM THE INVASION OF

## *JULIUS CÆSAR,*

To the Acceſſion of George III.

Adorned with Cuts of all the *Kings* and *Queens* who have reigned ſince the *Norman* Conqueſt.

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*The Memory of Things paſt ought not to be extinguiſhed by Length of Time nor great and admirable Actions remain deſtitute of Glory.*
Herodotus.

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GLASGOW:
Printed and ſold by J. & M. ROBERTSON, and J. DUNCAN, Booksellers. 1785.
[PRICE SIX PENCE.]

30.a.82 B L

TO THE

Young Gentlemen and Ladies

OF

*Great Britain* and *Ireland*,

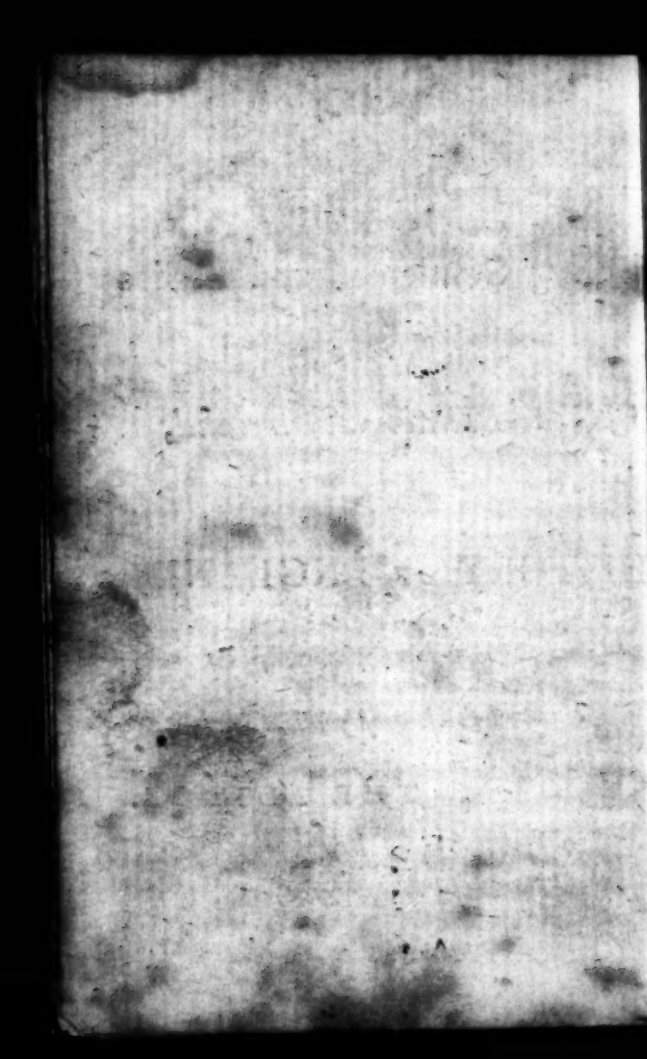
THIS

HISTORY OF ENGLAND,

Is Humbly Inſcribed,

*By their moſt obedient Servant*,

THE EDITOR.



# A DESCRIPTION OF *GREAT BRITAIN*;

WITH

## Some Account of its *Conſtitution* and *Government*.

THE iſland of Great Britain is of a triangular form; the angles whereof are the Lizard Point to the Weſt, Sandwich to the Eaſt, and Straithy-Head to the North. The ſeas that ſurround it are the CHANNEL to the South, by which it is ſeparated from France; the GERMAN OCEAN to the Eaſt, which divides it from Flanders, Denmark and Germany; the NORTH, or FROZEN SEA to the North;

and the IRISH SEA to the West. It is in length about 630 Engliſh miles, and its greateſt breadth about 290.

This iſland contains the two ancient kingdoms of England and Scotland, which were united under one Monarch in 1603, and into one kingdom in 1707. There are alſo bordering as it were upon this iſland ſeveral other iſles, which are ſubject to the ſame Monarch, and are therefore conſidered as a part of Great Britain. But Ireland, which is an ancient conqueſt of the Kings of England, as will be ſeen in the courſe of this hiſtory, is conſidered as a ſeparate kingdom, though ſubject to his Britannic Majeſty.

The ſouth part of this iſland, called England, is divided from Scotland by the rivers Tweed and Solway, and the mountains of Chiviot; and received that name from the Angles, or people of Lower Saxony, who were invited over by the Romaniſed Britons about the year 450, to aſſiſt them in their wars againſt the Picts, or ſouthern Scots.

Great Britain and Ireland are finely ſituated with regard to health and defence; and their ſoil is ſo fruitful, that it produces all the conveniences of life; and even affords many articles of luxury, of which, future hiſtorians

ſtorians will I am afraid, ſay, that the preſent inhabitants were too fond. They have all ſorts of uſeful animals in abundance, and very few that are noxious. They have great plenty of fruits and herbs; and corn in ſuch quantities, that Great Britain has been called, by way of eminence in this reſpect, the granary of Europe. The earth alſo in many parts abounds with lead, iron, and other minerals, and Cornwall is famous for producing the beſt tin in the world. Strabo ...s, there are mines of gold, but I believe old Geographer was miſtaken; however, are in Wales ſome veins of ſilver, and ...l enough to ſupply all the nations of ... The horſes, oxen and ſheep are ...t. They have great plenty of wool, the beſt in the world for making ...he trade for their woollen ma... very extenſive, as is that of ..., hard-ware, and other commodi... have indeed no wine of their own ... yet more is ſuppoſed to be drunk here than in the whole kingdom of France; and what is pretty extraordinary, more than is imported; they have, however, moſt excellent beer, and cyder in great plenty. Perry has been made here in ſuch perfection,

that when kept to a good age, even the French themselves have mistaken it for champaign. Scotland has a manufactory of linen, that is in great repute; and a fishery, which might be the richest in Europe if well conducted. Ireland has also a manufactory of linen, that is deservedly in high esteem; and they have black cattle, sheep, and excellent wool, in great plenty.

The trade of these kingdoms can only be estimated by their number of shipping, and their imports and exports, which are amazingly great.

The air of these islands is so healthy those natives, who cannot afford to drink too much, frequently live to of an hundred, and we have one in a man, I mean Henry Jenkins to the age of one hundred and The air, however, is in general especially about London, where a rule, that if there is no fog in ing, it rains in the afternoon; and ing's fog generally produces a fine day.

I shall say but little of the character of the inhabitants: every man knows his own constitution best. I am an Englishman, and an encomium from me might be suspected.

I must

I must observe, however, that they are, upon the whole, a very good people; yet here, as in other places, odd compounds are to be met with. They are for the most part ingenious and industrious, generous and humane, strong and brave; rather kind, than civil to strangers; faithful and friendly; they are great lovers of liberty, which, however, they do not always endeavour to preserve by the most prudent means; and one thing I must take notice of, which is rather the effect of inconsiderate wantonness than a bad heart, we see, and especially among the lower class, daily instances of inhumanity to animals.

The Government of England is a compound of * Monarchy, Aristocracy, and Democracy



* *By Monarchy I mean, that form of government, where the whole power is invested in the King, and who has therefore the disposal of the lives and fortunes of his subjects.*

*Aristocracy is, when a few of the best and chief of the people, in conjunction, rule and govern the rest.*

*Democracy is, when the government is in the hands of the multitude, and the fathers of families assemble in council, to make laws, and manage the affairs of state.*

mocracy, consisting of a King, and two houses of Parliament, that is to say, the Lords spiritual and temporal; and the Commons or the Knights of the Shires, Citizens and Burgesses: But this is said with regard to the legislative power only, the whole executive part being invested in the Crown. There is also the Upper and Lower Houses of Convocation, composed of the Archbishops, Bishops, Deans, Archdeacons, and some Proctors, to represent the Clergy of each diocese. This national synod of the Clergy, which is almost considered, as an essential part of the constitution, is convoked whenever a parliament is called, to take care of the state of the church; but tho' regularly convened, they have not been permitted to enter upon business for many years. The House of Lords is the supreme court of Judicature; and appeals may be made to the Lords from all inferior courts both in Great Britain and Ireland. But the Commons, by preserving to themselves the power of giving money to the Crown, are become the great barrier to the liberty of the subject. These grants they make only once a year, and have since the Revolution, obliged the Crown to call them together annually for that purpose.

The

The crown of Great Britain is hereditary, but not like that of France, for in default of male iſſue, female ſucceeds to it: A difference in religion, however, or non-obſervance of the laws, may ſet aſide the neareſt in blood; for the people have often broke in upon the line of ſucceſſion, to preſerve their religion and privileges. But in theſe caſes the crown has been transferred by parliament to a branch of the ſame family, and great care has been always taken to prefer the next of kin, if duly qualified.

The eſtabliſhed religion of England is reformed Epiſcopacy, as it was perfected and confirmed by Queen ELIZABETH; but Proteſtant-diſſenters of all denominations are allowed the free uſe of their religion, as alſo are the Jews, who have here public ſynagogues. There are in England two Archbiſhops, and twenty-four Biſhops; two Univerſities, deſervedly eſteemed throughout the world; and a great number of public ſchools, and hoſpitals for objects of charity.

The eldeſt ſon of the reigning King, and next heir to the crown, has, ever ſince the time of King Edward the firſt, been called the PRINCE of WALES. And he has, for the ſupport of his court and dignity, an allowance

lowance from the civil list, which is a certain annual revenue granted to his Majesty for the support of his household, separate and distinct from what is appropriated for the different purposes of government.

Scotland before the Union, was a compound of three estates not unlike that of England; and when the Stuart family came to the crown of England, a Commissioner was usually sent from London, on the meeting of the Scotch parliament, to represent the King. But since the Union, the Scots, who have no parliament of their own, send sixteen Lords and forty-five Commons to represent them in the Parliament of Great-Britain. The established religion of Scotland is Presbytery.

Ireland was governed by its own Kings till the year 1172, at which time it submitted to the obedience of Henry II. King of England. It has never been united with England in the manner Scotland was, but is still a distinct kingdom, governed by a Lord Lieutenant from England, who represents his Majesty in their Parliament, which is composed of the Peers spiritual and temporal, and Knights, Citizens and Burgesses, in the manner of that in Great Britain. Here

are

picted on their bodies figures of the Sun, Moon, Stars, *&c.* in the manner here represented.

Whe-

Whether these people were Aborigines, Gauls, or Trojans, is uncertain; for they took no care to transmit their origin to posterity; or, if they did, their writings have perished. The only account, therefore, of the ancient Britons that can be depended on, is that given us by Julius Cæsar, from whom take the following extract: "The "inner part of Britain, says he, was inhabited by those whom tradition recorded "to be originally produced in the island, "and the sea coast, by those who came out "of Belgium, or the Netherlands, either to "make incursions or invasions, who, after "the war was ended, continued in the pos-"sessions they had gained, and were called "by the name of the cities from whence "they came. The country is very popu-"lous, and well inhabited, with houses "much like those in France. They have "great store of cattle, and use brass for "money, or iron rings weighed at a certain "rate. In the midland part there is found "great quantities of lead and tin, and in "maritime parts, iron; however, they have "but little of that, and their brass is "brought in by other nations. They have "all sorts of trees which they have in

"France

"France, excepting the Beech and the Fir. "Their religion will not suffer them to eat "either hare, hen, or goose; notwithstanding they breed them all, as well for novelty as diversion. The country is more "temperate, and not so cold as France. "Of all the inhabitants, they of Kent are "most courteous and civil; all their country bordering upon the sea, and little "differing from the manner of France. "Most of the inland people sow no corn, "but live upon milk and flesh, and are either clothed with skins, or naked. All "the Britons in general paint their flesh "with *blue*, to the end they may seem more "terrible in fight. They have the hair of "their head long, but all other parts of "their body shaven except their upper "lip."

The ancient inhabitants of this island, though it was divided into several cities and states, seem to have consisted only of the three sorts of men whom Cæsar calls Equites, Druids, and Plebes, answering, as we may suppose, to our Nobility, Clergy, and Commonalty, the last of whom had no share in the government, and were but a sort of slaves or dependants on the other two.

The

The Equites were conſidered in their ſeveral ſtates as Princes or Chiefs, and had authority, power, and a number of followers, in proportion as they excelled one another in birth and wealth; each Chief being, we may ſuppoſe, not unlike the head of a clan in Scotland, or of the Septs in Ireland: and this ſeems to have been the original ſtate of government, not only here, but in other parts of the world, and was deduced from the natural force and right of paternal dominion. The men had the power of life and death over their wives, children, and ſlaves, and none were permitted to ſpeak of matters of ſtate, but in aſſemblies held for that purpoſe.

The Druids, ſo called from the Britiſh word *Deru*, ſignifying an oak, (either becauſe their ſacred places were in groves of oaks, (or from the phyſical virtues they attributed to the miſſletoe, which grew on the oaks) had the whole care of their laws, religion and learning; for a knowledge in which the people applied to them, and held their perſons in great veneration. Cæſar tells us, that the learning of the ancient Druids had its ſource in Britain: whence it was transferred to France, and that even in his

his time, those who were willing to attain a perfect knowledge of their learning and discipline, travelled into Britain for that purpose; whence we may conclude, that the Druids of Britain and France taught the same doctrine. The chief of the Druids had great authority, and was a sort of President over the rest, and at his death, he who excelled in dignity, generally succeeded; but when there happened to be several equals, the President was chosen by election, and sometimes by force of arms.

The Bardi, or Bards, were Druids or Priests of an inferior order, whose principal business was to celebrate the praises of their heroes in verses, which they set to music, and sung to their harps.

The Ubates were also Priests of an inferior degree, who as Strabo tells us, employed themselves in the study of philosophy and the works of nature.

These Druids met once a-year, at a time and place agreed on for the execution of their laws; when all persons who had controversies of right and wrong, or who had criminals in charge, came for their determination. They had a supreme power either to punish or acquit; and if any person refused

refuſed to obey their decree, he was excommunicated, that is diveſted of all his rights, both religious and civil, and hated by all men. Their worſhip was much like that of all other idolaters; Mercury was their principal God, whom they adored as the inventor of arts, the conductor of voyages and journies, and as the diſpoſer of gain and merchandiſe; Apollo they adored for his power in healing diſeaſes; Minerva for communicating knowledge; Jupiter for governing the celeſtial empire; and Mars for his aid in battle, to whoſe uſe they generally conſecrated their ſpoils of war, and ſacrificed ſuch beaſts as were taken from the enemy: and ſometimes in extreme danger they even ſacrificed their criminals, and for want of them, their innocent ſlaves, by putting them alive in wicker images of prodigious magnitude, which, being made of oſiers, were ſet on fire that all might be conſumed together. The doctrine of the Druids was principally intended to teach men, *The might and power of the immortal Gods:* and, *That the ſouls of men did not die, but tranſmigrate or paſs from one to another after death;* which laſt tenet was thought to ſtir up men to virtue and valour, and enable them to caſt off the fear

of

of death. Their learning consisted principally in philosophical and astronomical enquiries concerning the stars and their motions, the magnitude of the earth, and the world, and the nature of things in general; to which perhaps may be added, from their application and veneration of the misletoe, a knowledge of diseases and the method of cure. But this their science was, by their law concealed from the common people, and therefore no part of it was transcribed, but committed to the memory, and retained in an infinite number of verses, which they often repeated: a knowledge of their science, therefore, when a person was admitted into their class, required great study and application; and even with that, was not to be attained, perhaps, in less than twenty years. Their other transactions, whether public or private, were usually recorded in the Greek-tongue, of which language they were possessed when Cæsar invaded Britain.

OF

OF THE

# *Invaſion and Government*

OF

# BRITAIN *by the* ROMANS.

AMbitious men, to avoid the imputation of cruelty, endeavour to draw from juſtice and equity a colour to diſguiſe their actions; this was the caſe with Cæſar, whoſe pretence for invading Britain was, that they had aſſiſted the French with forces to be employed againſt him; and that Mandubratius, a Britiſh Chief, applied to him for ſuccours againſt his uncle Caſſivellanus or Caſſibalaun, who had murdered his father King Lud, as is generally ſuppoſed, though Cæſar calls him Imanuentius. For this, or for other reaſons, that are too obvious to be concealed, Cæſar, after having enquired into the ſtate of the iſland, ſent Volu-

Voluſanus in a galley to find out the beſt landing places, while he, with two legions, containing 8000 foot, and eighty ſhips, beſides gallies, ſailed from Calais in the night, and the next morning arrived on the coaſt of Britain; where the inhabitants who had heard of his coming, were ready to receive him, and attacked the Romans ſo furiouſly as they attempted to land, that they failed of their uſual courage, which one of their Enſigns, or Eagle-bearers, perceiving, jumped overboard, and with a loud voice cried, *Follow me, brother Soldiers, unleſs you will forſake your ſtandard, and betray it to the enemy; as for my part, I will do my duty to my Country and my General.* Upon which, thoſe in that ſhip immediately followed, and preſſing hard on the Britons, the battle by degrees became general and bloody; at length, however, the Romans got footing on the iſland, and put the inhabitants to flight, but were not able to follow them for want of their horſemen, whom Cæſar had ordered to embark in eighteen ſhips at St. Omer's, and who by a ſudden ſtorm were driven back, and ſo diſperſed, that not one arrived.

The Britons, after this engagement, diſpatched meſſengers to Cæſar to intreat for

peace, promiſing hoſtages and obedience; and many of their Princes and Rulers came to commend themſelves and their ſtates to him; whereupon a peace was concluded four days after his arrival. But the Britons, being afterwards informed that Cæſar's horſe were driven back, and the ſhips that brought over his army almoſt deſtroyed by a tempeſt thought proper to rebel; ſending therefore meſſengers up into the country, to inform their friends what a favourable opportunity they had of perpetuating their liberty, and of even obtaining a conſiderable booty, they collected a body to attack the Romans, and ſeveral ſkirmiſhes enſued. Cæſar in all theſe encounters, endeavoured only to keep them off, till he could repair his ſhattered fleet to return to France; but the Britons, having by degrees ſtrengthened their army with a great number of horſe and foot, boldly attacked the Romans in their camp, and the battle was very obſtinate and bloody; but the Britons were at laſt put to flight, and purſued for a conſiderable diſtance by the Roman ſoldiers, who burnt all the towns they could come at that day, and then returned to their camp. Upon this the Britons again ſent meſſengers to Cæſar to intreat

treat for peace, which Cæsar again granted them, on doubling the number of their hostages, with whom as the winter was at hand, he sailed immediately for France.

The next Spring, however, he returned to Britain with 800 ships, and an army of five legions, containing about 20,000 foot and 2000 horse. The Britons, notwithstanding they had given hostages, collected an armed force on the cliffs near Dover to receive him, but were so terrified at the prodigious armament of the Romans, that they retired twelve miles towards Canterbury. Cæsar followed, and they for a long time bravely contended for their lives and liberties, but were at last obliged to give way. Cæsar could not pursue them, being under a necessity of returning to his fleet, which a tempest the night before, had almost destroyed. The damage however, he repaired in ten days, and to prevent future accidents of that kind, hauled up all his ships on shore, and inclosed them in his camp. During the ten days Cæsar was thus employed, the Britons, who had many states and kings, whose interests so interfered, that they were at continual war with each other, united their forces, and unanimously chose Cassivellanus,

King of the Trinobantes, for their General; and this Prince with his brave Britons, gave Cæſar as much trouble as he ever met with, and more abundantly than he expected, few days paſſing even for a whole ſummer, but what they had battles on each ſide the river Thames; and the Britons by means of their fortified woods and war chariots, deſtroyed great numbers of their invaders.

Cæſar tells us, that in theſe chariots the Britons rode about, and caſt their weapons as an advantage offered; that the terror of their horſes, and their wheels much diſordered his forces; and when they had run in between any troops of horſe, they alighted from their chariots and fought on foot; the charioteers in the mean time poſting themſelves ſo, that their maſters might retire to them in caſe they were overpowered. Thus theſe chariots, ſome of which had a ſort of ſcythe fixed to them to mow down their enemies, performed in fight both the nimble motion of horſe, and the firm ſtability of foot; and the drivers were by daily practice grown ſo dexterous, that they could ſtop their horſes on the deſcent of a ſteep hill, and turn them ſhort, or direct their courſe with great eaſe: and what is alſo extraordinary,

nary, they could run along the pole of the chariot, reſt upon the yoke or harneſs, and return again at pleaſure.

Both Cæſar, however, and his forces had great fortitude, for they had been long inured to war; and Caſſivellanus, being at length forſaken by moſt of his confederate Kings and Chiefs who had revolted to Cæſar, was obliged, not only to make terms with Mandubratius, but to ſue for peace in the name of the whole people; which was purchaſed at the expence of a yearly tribute, and a number of hoſtages, with which Cæſar left the iſland, and never returned again. But during this war, it is ſaid, that he took Verulam, the chief town belonging to Caſſivellanus.

This is Cæſar's account of the invaſion, and by his account (which we may ſuppoſe was not written in diſfavour of himſelf or his followers) it appears, that the Britons made a brave ſtruggle for liberty, which has ever been dear to the inhabitants of this iſland, and which they probably would have obtained even againſt the immortal Cæſar, had not ſome private negociations been ſet on foot, to take off the other Princes from uniting their forces with thoſe of Caſſivel-

lanus; and even as it was, Cæſar had enough of the Britons, and was ſick of the enterpriſe, or he would never, after all the advantages he mentions, have departed quietly with a few ſimple hoſtages and the promiſe of a trifling tax, without fortifying a ſingle place, or leaving any garriſon in the iſland. Nay, Lucan taxes him with turning his back on the Britons, and Horace and Tibullus both intimate, that in their days, the Britons were conſidered as a free and unconquered nation.

After this Britain continued tributary to the Romans near 500 years, but they frequently rebelled and refuſed to pay. It was firſt refuſed to Caligula, the fourth Emperor after Julius Cæſar, who was ſo incenſed at the indignity, that he went againſt them himſelf; but either his courage or his force was inſufficient for the undertaking, and, therefore, being afraid to attempt an invaſion, he made his ſoldiers load their helmets with pebbles and cockle-ſhells, and returned in a very ridiculous manner, triumphing with what he called the ſpoils of the Ocean. But Aulus Plautius, and Oſtorius Scapula, in the reign of Claudius, ſo far ſubdued the Britons, that they carried their King Caractacus

ractacus in triumph to Rome, who, on seeing the riches and magnificence of that city, reproved their avarice, and asked, *How they, who were masters of such glorious things, could be so greedy after the mean huts and possessions of the poor Britons.* They rebelled again under Nero, who being left guardian to Queen Boadicea and her two daughters, his officers abused their trust, and a revolt ensued, in which 80,000 of the Romans were cut off. In another battle, however, which happened in consequence thereof, the Romans defeated the Britons, and slew 70,000; which so affected Queen Boadicea, that she destroyed herself. In the reign of Flavius Vespasian, they rebelled again: and, in the time of Domitian, they rebelled and killed a number of Romans; but were reduced by Julius Agricola, the Roman Deputy who killed 10,000 Britons, and subdued the whole island, except the mountainous parts of Wales and Cornwall, whether the unconquered Britons retired and preserved both their liberty and language.

The Britons, however, were scarce ever easy under this tribute, for they had, as Agricola himself observed, *An unconquerable Spirit of Liberty;* and whenever the Roman

Deputies oppreſſed them, they generally aroſe, and put their garriſons to the ſword: They alſo rebelled in the times of Adrian, Antoninus Pius, and Commodus; and in the reign of Septimus Severus *, they deſtroyed 50,000 Romans. Many thouſands likewiſe were killed in the time of Carus and Diocleſian. But on their rebelling under their King Coilus, in the year 307, the Emperor Conſtantius came over in perſon, and finding Coilus dead, married his fair daughter Helena, and had by her (born at Colcheſter in Eſſex) Conſtantine the Great, and the firſt Chriſtian Emperor, in which religion 'tis ſuppoſed, he was inſtructed by his mother, the Britons having received the Goſpel

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* *This Emperor (who is ſaid to have actually reigned here and died at York) built about the year 209, a wall of freeſtone, 80 miles in length, from the mouth of the Tyne to Solway Frith, on the rampart, which the Emperor Adrian had before raiſed of turf about the year 120, in order to confine the Picts or Caledonians within proper bounds, and prevent their diſturbing his Roman garriſons; part of which wall remains to this day.*

Gospel soon after the death of Christ. This alliance set the Britons and Romans on better terms, for the former paid their tribute freely, and the latter assisted them against their encroaching neighbours the Picts and Scots; but about the year 427, the Roman empire being in a manner over-run by the Goths, Vandals, and other nations, they were obliged not only to withdraw their garrisons from Britain, but to take with them many of the British youth to assist them against their enemies, which so weakened the poor Britons, that they became a prey to other nations, as will be seen hereafter.

OF THE

# Reign of the SAXONS in ENGLAND,

AND OF THE

# BRITISH KINGS that withstood the HEPTARCHY.

WHEN the Romans left Britain, it is ſuppoſed, as we have already obſerved, that many of the Britiſh youth went with them to their wars abroad, whence the nation was left in a manner defenceleſs; and the northern parts eaſily became a prey to the Picts and Scots. The Romans, indeed, came to their aid ſeveral times, and the laſt time they were here, aſſiſted them in repairing Severus's wall; but this fence, joined to their force, being inſufficient to keep off thoſe powerful enemies, the diſtreſſed Britons were obliged to ſend into Germany

to

to crave assistance from the Saxons; who, under the command of Hengist and Horsa, landed on the Kentish coast in the year 449, and joining the Britons, soon routed their enemies.

As the Saxon leaders had fought with distinguished bravery, Vortigern, King of the Britons, rewarded them with possessions in Kent. Having thus gained a settlement in the kingdom, Hengist in a few years enlarged the bounds allotted him, and made himself King of Kent, the first kingdom of the Saxon Heptarchy.

Encouraged by the success of these first adventurers, the Saxons came over in great multitudes, and soon let the Britons know that they intended to be their masters; to forward which base scheme, Hengist invited all the British nobles to meet him on Salisbury Plain, under the pretence of making a treaty, and there treacherously caused them all to be slain. After this, more Saxons and Angles coming over to join their countrymen, they in a few generations conquered all that part of Britain which had been subject to the Romans, and at different times divided it into those seven kingdoms, which Historians call the Saxon Heptarchy, *viz.*

1. Kent, containing that county; 2. Suſſex, or South Saxons, containing Suſſex and Surry; 3. Weſſex, or Weſt Saxon, containing Berkſhire, Hampſhire, Wiltſhire, Dortſetſhire, Somerſetſhire, and Devonſhire; 4. Eſſex, or Eaſt Saxons, containing Middleſex, Eſſex, and part of Hertfordſhire; 5. Eaſt Angles, containing Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeſhire; 6. Northumberland, containing the ſix northern counties beyond the river Humber; and 7. Mercia, containing all the reſt of England, which was therefore by far the largeſt. Each of theſe kingdoms had a continual ſucceſſion of ſeveral Kings, who were ever at war with each other, as well as with the Britiſh Kings, for the ſpace of 360 years, which occaſioned various revolutions; but in the year 819, though ſome ſay 829, and almoſt 400 years after the arrival of the Saxons in England, Egbert, Duke of Weſſex, or the Weſt Saxons, reduced all the reſt to his obedience, and became ſole Monarch of England; which name he gave to his kingdom from a part of his Saxons, who were called Angles

We are here to obſerve, that during this period there were thirteen Britiſh Kings, who with their people withſtood the Saxon conqueſt,

queſt, though obliged to retire into Wales: *viz.* Vortigern, Vortimer, Ambroſe, Pendragon, Arthur, Conſtantine, Conatus, Vertiporus, Malgo, Careticus, Cadwan, Cadwallo, and Cadwallader. And one of theſe, I mean Arthur, was ſo great a hero, that hiſtorians ſay he gained ten victories over the Saxons, killed in one engagement 400 of the enemy with his own hand, and that he ravaged the country of the Picts: But at length Cerdic the Saxon, having ſupplies continually crowded to his aſſiſtance, ſo far got the better of him, that the Britons deſpaired of ever recovering their country, and retired into Wales. Cerdic died in 334, at which time Modred, who was nephew to Arthur, joined the Saxons and Picts, againſt his uncle. Both the uncle and nephew met in an engagement, when Modred was killed on the ſpot, and Arthur received a mortal wound, of which he ſoon after died, in the 90th year of his age, and 34th of his reign. This King, it is ſaid, inſtituted the order of *Knights of the Round Table*, ſo famous in romances. Rapin is of opinion, that theſe fictions aroſe from the affection and veneration the Britons had for him, who would not believe him dead till his tomb was found in the

the reign of Henry II. 600 years after his deceaſe.

After the death of Cadwallader, which happened in the year 689, the Saxons were left entire maſters of England, and therefore we return to the Saxons Kings.

EGBERT the Great, properly called the firſt King of England, was the ſon of Alomund, and of the royal family of Weſſex; but Brithric having uſurped the crown he was ſentenced to loſe his head; he, however, eſcaped the fury of his enemies by flying to Offa, and afterwards to Charlemagne, King of France, and Founder of the weſtern empire. Upon the murder of Brithric in 801, he returned to Britain, where he was received with joy, and crowned, King of Weſſex; and having in the ſeveral European courts learned all the arts of peace and war, he by the juſtice and clemency of his government, ſecured the affections of his people, and by their aſſiſtance conquered the Britons who inhabited the coaſts of Cornwall and Wales; but theſe in after ages recovered their independency. In 823 he defeated Witglaph, King of the Mercians, and having conquered his kingdom, he, in 825, turned

turned his arms againſt the Kings of Kent, Eaſt Anglia and Eſſex, and made himſelf maſter of their territories. In 827 he advanced againſt the Northumbrians who ſubmitted without oppoſition, and the next year became the ſole Monarch of South Britain; to which he gave the name of England. He remained in the peaceable poſſeſſion of his extenſive dominions till the year 833, when the Danes made a deſcent into England, and defeated the army he ſent againſt them; but they did not long enjoy the fruits of their victory; for two years after, Egbert having routed them, drove them back to their ſhips; and they never dared to return during his reign. In ſhort, he enjoyed his conqueſts about eight years, died in 838, and was interred at Wincheſter.

ETHELWULF, the ſon of Egbert the Great, ſucceeded his father in 838. He had been biſhop of Wincheſter, and was eſteemed a pious, wiſe, and peaceable Prince. The Danes invading England, and plundering London, he, in 851, cut moſt of them to pieces, and they returning about two years after, he gained two ſuch ſignal victories

ries over them, that according to ſome hiſtorians, not one of the enemy eſcaped to acquaint their countrymen with the news. This King freed the church lands from all tribute and regal ſervices; but afterwards going to Rome with his ſon Alfred, and being kindly received by Pope Leo IV. he rendered his kingdom tributary to the Papal See, and obliged every family in his dominions, to pay to the Pope one Shilling annually, which was called Rome's Scot, or Peter Pence, and was regularly paid about 680 years, *i. e.* till the reign of Henry VIII. On his return to England, he divided the kingdom in his abſence, in order to avoid a civil war. He died in 857, after a reign of twenty-one years, and left behind him four ſons, *viz.* Ethelbald, Ethelbert, Ethelred, and Alfred; the two firſt of whom divided the kingdom; Kent, Suſſex, Surry, and Eſſex being bequeathed to Ethelbert, his ſecond ſon.

ETHELBALD had neither the piety nor valour of his father or grandfather, and was deſpiſed by his ſubjects. Soon after the death of his father, he married his mother-in-law, but after a reign of three years, dying

ng without iſſue, the whole kingdom devolved to his brother Ethelbert.

ETHELBERT was a wiſe, valiant, and pious Prince. During his reign the Danes invaded England again, and burnt Wincheſter to the ground; but were ſoon after totally routed by Ethelbert. He reigned only ſix years, and died in 866.

ETHELRED I. who was a valiant, prudent, pious Prince, now aſcended the throne; which he had no ſooner obtained, than the Danes ravaged the eaſt part of England, plundered the city of York, and wintered in Mercia. The next year they laid waſte all the country till they came into Weſſex, where nine ſeveral battles were fought; in one of which Ethelred killed one of their Kings, nine Earls, and a great number of common ſoldiers; but about fourteen days after, in another battle, the Danes routed his army, and Ethelred himſelf was ſlain (though ſome ſay, he died of the plague) in 872, and in the 6th year of his reign.

ALFRED

ALFRED the Great, ſo called from his great and many virtues, next aſcended the throne. He was adorned with every qualification requiſite to form a good King; and had, in the life-time of his three brothers, fought with diſtinguiſhed bravery againſt the Danes; but was now ſo cloſely preſſed by thoſe numerous invaders, that he was obliged to compound with them for one part of his kingdom, and even of that, he was in a little time diſpoſſeſſed; he was, however, dearly beloved by his people, among whom he wandered about in diſguiſe, ſtill watching the motions and behaviour of the Danes; and one day having dreſſed himſelf like a poor fidler, he entered the Daniſh camp, where beholding their negligence and diſorder, he collected his ſcattered forces, and gave them ſuch a total overthrow, that he brought them entirely under his ſubjection, and obliged them either to be baptized or to quit his dominions. Affairs being thus happily ſettled, he employed his time in making good laws, and encouraging Arts and Sciences; for which purpoſe he divided the natural day into three parts, eight hours of which he ſpent in ſtudy and contemplation, eight in affairs

of

of ſtate, and the other eight he allowed himſelf for ſleep, recreation, and the care of his own affairs. He inſtituted juries, divided the kingdom into ſhires, tythings, and hundreds; he built and endowed two magnificent abbies, rebuilt the city of London, which had been deſtroyed during the wars, in the year 886. He founded the Univerſity of Oxford; and in the year 900 died in peace, aged 52, and in the 28th year of his reign.

EDWARD, ſurnamed the Elder, ſucceeded his father Alfred; and though he was inferior in learning, equalled him in valour, piety, and the love he bore to his ſubjects. He obliged the Welch to return to their allegiance; defeated the Danes, and kept them in ſubjection; obliged Conſtantine II. King of Scotland, to ſue for peace, and to do him homage; and having reigned twenty-four years, died in 925.

ATHELSTAN, the natural ſon of Edward, ſucceeded him on the throne, (the legitimate Prince being very young) and was beloved, not only by his people, but by moſt of the Princes in Europe. In one battle

battle which he fought with the Danes and Scots, he killed ſeven of their Kings or Chiefs, whoſe tombs are now to be ſeen at Axminſter in Devonſhire; he obliged Scotland and Wales to pay him tribute, and cauſed the Bible to be tranſlated into Engliſh. In his time lived Guy earl of Warwick, famous for conquering Colbrand the Daniſh giant and champion, near the walls of Wincheſter. This King died in 941, and in the ſixteenth year of his reign.

EDMUND I. called the Pious, who was legitimate ſon of King Edward, next aſcended the throne. He was a good Prince, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his bravery and ſucceſs againſt his enemies, and by adding many admirable laws to thoſe of King Alfred. He defeated the Northumbrians, who had revolted, and gave Cumberland and Weſtmoreland to Malcolm King of Scotland: but obliged him to do homage for them. This King, in the year 947, and the ſixth of his reign, was murdered at a feaſt by one Leolt, a vile fellow whom he had baniſhed; and left behind him two ſons, Edwin and Edgar, who were both thought too young at that time to ſucceed him.

EDRED

EDRED his brother therefore aſcended the throne, who after he had reduced the Northumbrian Danes to his obedience, devoted himſelf to a religious life; built and endowed ſeveral churches and monaſteries, and died in the year 955, having reigned about ſeven years.

EDWIN, the eldeſt ſon of Edmund, ſucceeded his uncle Edred. He had a graceful perſon, whence he obtained the ſurname of the Fair; but being lewd and irreligious, his ſubjects rebelled againſt him, and made his brother King; upon which he died of grief, after a reign of four years.

EDGAR, ſurnamed the Peaceable, was crowned before his brother's death, and proved a moſt accompliſhed, valiant and prudent Prince. He recalled St. Dunſtan, whom his brother had baniſhed, reſtored the privileges of the church, and lived in peace, by being always prepared for war. He defended the coaſts with his fleets, freed the country from robbers, puniſhed ſuch magiſtrates as ſuffered themſelves to be corrupted, travelled the country himſelf to adminiſter juſtice, and changed the annual tribute

bute of ſpecie and cattle due from the Welch into 300 wolves heads, and by that means entirely deſtroyed all thoſe ravenous beaſts. Theſe prudent meaſures ſo increaſed his power, that without making war he aſſumed the title of Sovereign of the whole iſland, reduced all his neighbours to his obedience, and it is ſaid, was rowed in his barge up the river Dee, by eight petty kings. He reigned 16 years, and died in 975.

EDWARD II. called the Younger, and the Martyr, ſucceeded his father Edgar; but being of a mild and eaſy diſpoſition, he left the government of the kingdom in a great meaſure to his ſtep-mother Elfrida; who, in the fourth year of his reign, had him murdered, while he was drinking on horſeback, to make room for her own ſon.

ETHELRED II. who next aſcended the throne, and was ſon to Edgar by Elfrida, was a covetous indolent coward. By a ſecret inhuman commiſſion, he cauſed all the Danes to be maſſacred, who had ſettled in England; which induced Sweyn, King of Denmark, to invade his dominions; and as Ethelred was deſpiſed, and hated by his ſubjects,

ſubjects, Sweyn eaſily prevailed, and having defeated his forces, obliged him to pay 30,000 l. raiſed on the Engliſh by a tax called Danegelt, with which booty Sweyn ſailed to Denmark, but returned the next year with a more powerful army, and entirely conquered the kingdom. Upon this, Ethelred flew into Normandy; but on the death of Sweyn, which happened ſoon after, he returned, and died in England in the year 1016, having reigned thirty-ſeven years.

EDMUND II. his ſon, ſurnamed Ironſide, from his extraordinary ſtrength and valour, was one of the greateſt captains of his age; but he had the misfortune to be oppoſed by enemies who were too powerful. He, however, gained three compleat victories over the Danes under Canute the ſon of Sweyn, and obliged him to raiſe the ſiege he had laid to London. But not making a proper uſe of thoſe advantages, and being impoſed upon by the councils of his brother-in-law Edric, who ſought his friendſhip only to betray him, he was afterwards defeated by Canute, and his affairs were in ſuch a wretched ſituation, that his friends were

were obliged to leave him, and submit to the conqueror. Edmund, however, collected together such of his subjects as still continued faithful, in order to engage the enemy, and perceiving Canute at the head of his army, rode off from his own forces to meet him; and Canute advancing with the same intent, a furious combat ensued, in which, neither having the advantage, they agreed to divide the kingdom between them. Poor Edmund, however, enjoyed his share but a few days, for that villain Edric, his brother-in-law, got him assassinated by two of his domestics.

This he did to ingratiate himself with Canute, who, being of a generous disposition, abhorred the action; and instead of rewarding Edric, ordered his head to be cut off the first opportunity he had, and fixed upon one of the highest gates of London. The valiant and good Edmund was murdered in 1017, after having reigned almost a year.

OF

OF THE

# DANISH KINGS

OF

# ENGLAND.

THE Danes had contended for the crown of England upwards of 200 years, in which time were fought fifty-four battles by land, and thirty-eight by sea, besides skirmishes and sieges, attended with the loss of an infinite number of men; yet they possessed it only twenty-four years, under the three following Monarchs, *viz.* Canute, Harold, and Hardicanute.

CANUTE the Great, on the death of Edmund, succeeded to the throne; being in the year 1017 elected King, notwithstanding Edmund and Edward, the sons of the late King Edmund, were living; and by this

election, an end was put to the war. Matters being thus settled, Canute began to ingratiate himself with his new subjects; and by rebuilding their cities, churches and abbies, by lessening their taxes, and by entrusting them with the highest offices, and even with the command of his armies, he soon won the hearts of the English; by whose assistance he obliged the King of Scotland to pay him tribute, and conquered Norway. Though this King beheaded the traitor Edric, for the murder of Edmund, yet it is supposed that he himself was concerned in that diabolical deed; and that he afterwards sent away his two sons, Edmund and Edward, to be murdered, though they providentially escaped. We are told, however, that he sincerely repented of this crime, and built a church over Edmund's tomb, which place he called St. Edmund's Burry. Towards the latter end of his life, he became humble, just, and truly pious. As he was one day standing by the sea-shore, a flatterer in his train told him, that he was King of both earth and sea: Upon which, sitting down, he ordered the tide not to wet his feet, nor proceed any farther; but staying there till the water surrounded him, he, turning to the

he flatterer, ſaid, *See here, how vain is earthly grandeur, and how weak all human force! God alone is King of the land, and of the ſea, and him let us worſhip and adore.* This King died in 1036, after a reign of nineteen years, and left behind him three ſons, Swanus, Harold, and Hardicanute; to the firſt of whom he bequeathed the kingdom of Norway, to the ſecond England, and to the laſt Denmark.

HAROLD I. who ſucceeded to the throne in conſequence of his father's will, was ſo impious, cruel, unjuſt, diſſolute, and mean-ſpirited, that his ſubjects were going to depoſe him, when death delivered them of their obnoxious burthen. He died in the year 1039, and in the third of his reign.

HARDICANUTE was the third and laſt Daniſh Monarch that reigned in England, and was, if poſſible, a wretch of worſe qualities than his brother Harold, whoſe body he cauſed to be dug up and thrown into the river Thames; which being found by a fiſherman, was delivered to the Danes, and by them buried in the church called St. Clement Danes. He impoſed an exorbitant

tax on the Engliſh of 32,147l. and plundered and burnt the city of Worceſter for refuſing to pay their portion of it. He died ſuddenly at a banquet in Lambeth, in 1041, and in the third year of his reign, either of eating and drinking to exceſs, or of a ſtrong poiſon, to the great joy of the Engliſh. The government of the Danes was now become ſo odious, that the chief men of the kingdom made a law, or at leaſt entered into an agreement, that no other perſon of that nation ſhould ever wear the crown; and that whoever propoſed it ſhould be looked upon as an enemy to his country, and guilty of high treaſon. This is the language of the hiſtorians: but how ſuch a law or compact could be carried into execution, when the nation was ſo full of Danes, is to me amazing; and cannot be accounted for, unleſs we ſuppoſe the Danes themſelves were tired of their own vicious Kings. In ſhort, this is one of the moſt dark and perplexing periods in the Engliſh hiſtory, and therefore we muſt leave it to thoſe who have more learning and ſagacity, as well as more room for diſquiſitions of this nature.

## *The* SAXON LINE *reſtored.*

EDWARD III. ſurnamed the Confeſſor, and ſon of Ethelred, was on the death of Hardicanute, elected King; which was chiefly occaſioned by the intrigues of earl Goodwin, whoſe daughter he had promiſed to marry. In his reign, the Danes, Scots and Welch, entered England at different times, and committed great outrages; but Edward and his Generals bravely defeated them all. Among theſe Generals mention ought to be made of Siward, earl of Northumberland, who routed the Scots, and killed Macbeth their King; and of Harold, ſon of Goodwin, who of his own accord, raiſed an army in the diſtricts under his command, with which he vanquiſhed the joint forces of Aſgar an Engliſh nobleman, and Griffin King of Wales, who had entered England and plundered Hereford. When peace was reſtored to his dominions, he collected all the good laws made by his predeceſſors, whether Britons, Romans, Saxons, or Danes; and adding more of his own, formed them into one body,

which he called, *The Common law of* ENGLAND. He built Weſtminſter-Abbey, (with a ſepulchre for himſelf) and the church of St. Margaret, which ſtands near it. He was the firſt King of England who touched for the Evil, and was by the church eſteemed a great Saint; he was, however, guilty of ſome acts of cruelty; for he ſeized the poſſeſſions of Queen Emma, his mother, and allowed her only a ſmall penſion for life: Nay, ſome hiſtorians ſay, that he accuſed her of being concerned in an infamous affair with Alwin, Biſhop of Wincheſter, and that ſhe was tried for adultery by the Ordeal or fiery trial; that is to ſay, nine red hot plough ſhares were laid at unequal diſtances, over which the criminal was obliged to paſs blindfold, and barefooted; which ſhe is ſaid to have done unhurt, and was therefore declared innocent. But this, though aſſerted by ſome authors with great gravity, is too abſurd and ridiculous to be believed. He refuſed to cohabit with his wife Editha, ſome ſay from a religious veneration of chaſtity; but the general and moſt probable opinion is, that he avoided her becauſe ſhe was, as it were, forced upon him by the intrigues of earl Goodwin her

her father, and that he could not bear the company of a woman, whose father had murdered his brother. Earl Goodwin knew that the King suspected him of being concerned in that murder, and, it is said, in order to clear himself of that suspicion, he one day, at the King's table, took up a piece of bread, and wished it might choak him if he was ever concerned in the murder of that Prince, and died with the next morsel he ate. This story, however, is told but by a few historians, and the truth of it is to be doubted. He reigned twenty-four years, and died without issue in 1065, and in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

HAROLD II. son of earl Goodwin, was so well beloved by the people that he was unanimously elected King, notwithstanding that Edgar Atheling, grandson to Edmund Ironside, the right heir was living; and that the late King had bequeathed the crown, by will, to his friend William, Duke of Normandy. Edgar was unable to ascertain his right to the crown by force of arms; but William Duke of Normandy, (whom Harold had once when in distress sworn not to oppose) sent ambassadors to reproach Ha-

rold with the violation of his oath, and to demand the crown; offering at the same time to leave the right of succession to the determination of the Pope, or to try it by single combat, which being refused, William applied to Tosti, who was Harold's brother, but sworn enemy, for assistance. As Tosti had married the daughter of Baldwin, earl of Flanders, that earl lent him a body of forces, with which he landed in England, but was defeated: upon which Tosti applied first to the King of Scotland, and afterwards to Harold Harfager, King of Norway, and proposed to him the conquest of England. Harfager joined Tosti, and embarking his forces on board three hundred ships, came into England, and took York: but in a pitched battle Harold routed his whole army, and both Harfager and Tosti were slain. This success, it is thought, rendered Harold both insolent and careless, for he imprudently, and indeed unjustly, kept the whole plunder of the field, without distributing any part among his soldiers, upon which they grew discontented and unruly.

WILLIAM, Duke of Normandy, was all this time strengthening his army, and having obtained forces from the neighbouring Princes,

Princes, he fitted out a ſtrong fleet, and on the 29th of September landed at Pevanſy in Suſſex; thence proceeding to Haſtings, he built a ſtrong fort, and, in the place called Battle-Field, engaged the army of Harold, when a moſt bloody battle enſued; which, though loſt, was fought with the utmoſt bravery by the Engliſh, notwithſtanding the diſlike they had conceived to Harold. In this engagement William had three horſes killed under him, and a great number of his Normans ſlain; and Harold loſt his life, together with the lives of many of the nobility, and about 60,000 ſoldiers. Hiſtorians tell us, that the loſs of this battle was in a great meaſure owing to a long peace which the Engliſh had enjoyed, and in which they had neglected the military arts, and abandoned themſelves to luxury and idleneſs: and to this, we may ſuppoſe, the licentiouſneſs of the clergy, the effeminacy, gluttony, and oppreſſion of the nobility, and the drunkenneſs and diſſolute behaviour of the common people, did not a little contribute. It is likewiſe to be obſerved, that the Normans had the advantage of the long bows, of the uſe of which the Engliſh were then ignorant. But notwithanding theſe,

the Engliſh with bills, their ancient weapons, kept ſo cloſe together, that they were impregnable; and the Normans would never have obtained the victory, had they not pretended to fly, and by that means brought the Engliſh into diſorder.

WILLIAM, notwithſtanding this victory turned out ſo much in his favour, could have little hopes of gaining the throne by right of conqueſt, and therefore he gave out that he came to revenge the death of Prince Alfred, brother to King Edward; to reſtore Robert, archbiſhop of Canterbury, to his ſee, and to claim the crown as his right, it having been bequeathed him by Edward the Confeſſor. He cannot therefore, I think, with any propriety be called the Conqueror; for theſe motives engaged many of the Engliſh in his favour, who conſidered that he had at leaſt as much right to it as Harold, and they made him conform to their terms, and agree to govern them by the laws of Edward the Confeſſor, before they would admit him to the throne.

The body of Harold was found after the engagement, and buried in Waltham-Abby, which he had founded.

# I. WILLIAM *the* CONQUEROR, *from* 1066 *to* 1087.

WILLIAM, *a spurious branch of Rollo's race,*
*From Norman's Duke, to England's K. we trace;*
*He conquer'd Saxon* Harold, *seiz'd the throne,*
*Was brave, but proud, and partial to his own.*

# WILLIAM I.

*Commonly called the* CONQUEROR.

THIS Prince was the natural ſon of Robert VI. Duke of Normandy, by Aletta, a furrier's daughter. Harold being ſlain in battle, William, who was about 52 years of age, marched directly to London, where he claimed the crown by the teſtament of King Edward the Confeſſor. On his way to that city, he was met by a large body of the men of Kent, each with a bough or limb of a tree in his hand. This army was headed by Stigard, the Archbiſhop, who made a ſpeech to the Conqueror, in which he boldly demanded the preſervation of their liberties, and let him know that they were reſolved rather to die than to part with their laws and live in bondage.

WILLIAM thought proper to grant their demands, and ſuffered them to retain their ancient cuſtoms.

Upon his coronation at Weſtminſter, he was ſworn to govern by the laws of the realm, and though he introduced ſome new forms,

forms, yet he preſerved to the Engliſh their trials by juries, and the borough-law. He inſtituted the courts of Chancery and Exchequer; but at the ſame time diſarmed his Engliſh ſubjects, and forbad their having any light in their houſes after eight o'clock at night, when a bell was rung, called Curfew or *cover fire*, at the ſound of which all were obliged to put out their fires and candles. He conquered ſeveral powers who invaded England; obliged the Scots to preſerve the peace they had broken; compelled the Welch to pay him tribute; refuſed himſelf to pay homage to the Pope; built the Tower of London; and had all public acts made in the Norman tongue. He oppreſſed the people by taxes, and made a law by which every man who killed a deer was to have his eyes put out. He cauſed all England to be ſurveyed and rated, and the men numbered, in a work called Doomſday-book, which is ſtill in being.

To curb the inſolence of the French, who had invaded Normandy, and after that to reduce his ſon Robert, who appeared there in arms againſt him, he carried over with him an Engliſh army, and left his own troops at home. William in a general engagement

gagement had like to have been killed by his ſon; but Robert when he found that he was engaged with his father, dutifully ſubmitted to him, though he was victorious.

WILLIAM invaded France, and taking Nantes in Auguſt 1087, he ordered it to be reduced to aſhes; but approached ſo near the flames, that the heat of the fire, together with the warmth of the ſeaſon, threw him into a fever, which being increaſed by a fall from his horſe in his return to Roan, he died in a village near that city on the 9th of September following, in the 94th year of his age, after a reign of 52 years in Normandy, and 21 in England, and was buried at Caen.

WILLIAM was tall, broad ſet, and of great ſtrength. His paſſions were violent. He had much wiſdom, but more diſſimulation; great wealth, but greater avarice; was fond of fame, but ſevere to his opponents in war.

In this reign Richard, the King's ſecond ſon, was killed by a ſtag in the New Foreſt. There was a great fire in London, which conſumed St. Paul's; and an earthquake which happened on a Chriſtmas-day.

## II. WILLIAM *the* SECOND, *from* 1087 *to* 1100.

*WILLIAM the Second won but little fame;*
*He built that Hall which Weſtminſter we name;*
*Was valiant, raſh, intemperate and vain,*
*And was by Tyrrell in New Foreſt ſlain.*

# WILLIAM II.

WILLIAM the ſecond ſurviving ſon of William the Conqueror, who was from the colour of his hair ſurnamed Rufus or Red, ſucceeded his father in 1087. He was then thirty years of age; and at the ſame time his brother Robert ſucceeded to the duchy of Normandy. Robert reſolved to aſſert his right of primogeniture to the crown of England, and ſeveral of the Norman nobility eſpouſed his cauſe; but William put an end to the rebellion, by defeating a body of troops in Kent; and ſoon after, partly by force, and partly by bribery, obliged his brother to conclude a peace. The two brothers then made war on their younger brother Henry, whom they beſieged in Mount St. Michael; where William, one morning riding out unattended, fell in with a party of Henry's ſoldiers, and endeavoured to force his way through them, but was diſmounted, and a ſoldier was going to diſpatch him, when he cried out, *Hold fellow, I am the King of England.* On this the man dropping his ſword, raiſed the Monarch

narch from the ground, and received from him the honour of knighthood and other favours. The brothers were ſoon reconciled, and William turned his arms againſt Scotland, and defeated the army of their King Malcolm; that Prince and his ſon being juſt before killed in an ambuſh laid by Mowbray the Governor of Northumberland. Soon after, Robert de Mowbray, finding that the king had neglected to reward his ſervices, joined with ſeveral other noblemen to ſet the crown on the head of Stephen, grandſon to William the Conqueror: Upon which the King marched into Yorkſhire, reduced Bamborough caſtle, took Mowbray priſoner, and put an end to the rebellion.

At length, as William was hunting in the New Foreſt, he was ſlain with an arrow ſhot by Walter Tyrrel, his particular favourite; who, aiming at a deer, ſtruck the King full in the breaſt, and he immediately expired, on the 2d of Auguſt 1100, aged 44; after a reign of 13 years, and was conveyed to Wincheſter in a collier's cart.

# III. HENRY *the* FIRST, *from* 1100 *to* 1135.

*Learn'd and polite, the Conqueror's youngeſt ſon*
*By wiſdom kept the crown his wiles had won.*
*Brave, handſome, ſober, to his ſubjects kind,*
*Yet faithleſs, covetous, to luſt inclin'd.*

# HENRY I.

THIS Prince, the youngeſt ſon of William the Conqueror, was, on account of his great learning, ſurnamed Beaucleic. He was born at Selby in Yorkſhire in 1070; and the Engliſh, looking upon him as their natural Prince, raiſed him to the throne in 1100, though his eldeſt brother Robert was living, but he was engaged in the Holy Land. Henry was at that time 30 years of age, and had before ſhewn himſelf a politic and brave Prince. He was no ſooner ſeated on the throne, than he began to make amendments in the laws of the realm, and to aboliſh ſome abuſes which had crept into the church. About this time, Robert returning from Jeruſalem, Henry endeavoured to ſecure himſelf on the throne by marrying the Princeſs Matilda, daughter to Malcom King of Scotland, by Margaret the ſiſter of Edgar Atheling.

Duke Robert, however, being determined to revive his claim, landed at Portſmouth in 1102; but when both armies were ready to engage, a treaty was propoſed to ſave the effuſion

effuſion of blood; and it was agreed, that Henry ſhould retain his kingdom, relinquiſh to Robert the poſſeſſion of Normandy, and pay him 3000 merks a year; and that if one of the brothers died without children, the other ſhould ſucceed him in his dominions. Robert afterwards, being diſturbed by a formidable inſurrection, and having deprived himſelf of all Normandy, except the city of Roan, by mortgaging it to pay his debts, applied to his brother for aſſiſtance; on which Henry levied an army, paſſed into Normandy, ſeized ſeveral cities, and on his return to England, was followed by his brother as a ſuppliant to a conqueror for mercy; but Henry was deaf to all his entreaties; on which Robert returned, and obtained the aſſiſtance of France and ſome of the neighbouring Princes; but Henry going with an army to Normandy, totally defeated the allies, took the Duke himſelf priſoner, ſeized upon his dominions, and confined him in Cardiff caſtle in Wales. Some time after, Henry's only ſon, William, and the Counteſs of Perche, his natural daughter, in their paſſage by ſea from Barfleur to England, were unfortunately drowned; which gave Henry ſuch deep affliction, that according

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ing to ſome hiſtorians, he was never after ſeen to laugh. His brother Robert, after a confinement of 27 years, and the moſt ſevere and cruel treatment, died in priſon, and his death was ſoon followed by that of Henry, who fell ill by eating to exceſs of ſome lampreys at his caſtle of Lyon near Roan, which carried him off in ſeven days. He died on the 1ſt of December 1135, in the 68th year of his age, and the 36th of his reign; and was buried at Reading, in a monaſtery of his own founding. The Empreſs Maud was his only legitimate child then living, though he had twelve natural children.

HENRY was very learned, and had ſo great a regard for the ſciences, that he built a palace at Oxford, whither he often retired. He had black hair, was of a middling ſtature, had a handſome perſon, and engaging deportment; but theſe accompliſhments were ſullied by his cruelty, avarice, and inordinate love of women.

In his reign, Wincheſter, Glouceſter, and Worceſter were burnt. The Thames, Medway, and Trent were almoſt dried up. In the 33d year of his reign, London was burnt from Weſtcheap to Aldgate.

IV. STE-

## IV. STEPHEN, *from* 1135 *to* 1154.

*Valiant and prudent, but of dubious right,*
*Which oft, with various chance, was try'd in fight;*
*At length, his own son dead, this Prince agreed*
*That Henry, son of Maud, should him succeed.*

# STEPHEN.

THE Norman government, which had ſubſiſted ſixty-nine years in England, was now extinct. The Empreſs Maud or Matilda ſucceeded her father in his dutchy of Normandy; but though her right to the crown of England had been recogniz'd in parliament, Stephen earl of Bologne the third ſon of the earl of Blois, by Adela, daughter to William the Conqueror, got poſſeſſion of the throne, and was crowned on the 22d of December 1135. Stephen revived the favourite laws of Edward the Confeſſor. In this reign, the inſolence of the clergy obliged Stephen to ſeize the caſtles belonging to the biſhops of Saliſbury, Lincoln, and Ely. The ſpirit of rebellion upon this occaſion prevailed, and the Empreſs Maud ſeized the opportunity of aſſerting in perſon a right to the crown. The King beſieged the Empreſs in Wallingford, purſued her to Lincoln, and gave battle to the earl of Glouceſter before that city, when the King was taken priſoner; before which he had broke his battle-axe and ſword, and was knock-

knocked down on his knees with a ſtone. He was then confined in irons in Briſtol caſtle.

MAUD was now acknowledg'd Sovereign, but behaved with great haughtineſs: King Stephen's conſort humbly intreated her to ſet her huſband at liberty, promiſing that he ſhould reſign his crown and end his days in a monaſtery; but ſhe diſmiſſed her with ſuch contempt, that the late Queen recovering reſolution, raiſed a large body of forces; and Maud refuſing to mitigate the ſeverity of the Norman laws, a revolt enſued, and the King was ſet at liberty. All the adherents to Maud were at length obliged to retire to Normandy: however, the young Prince Henry her ſon, obtaining aſſiſtance from France, returned to England; but when both Princes were preparing for battle, a truce was agreed on, and it was ſtipulated that the King ſhould enjoy the crown during life, and that after his deceaſe, Henry ſhould ſucceed to the throne. Stephen died on the 25th of October at Canterbury, in the 50th year of his age, and the 19th of his reign, and was buried in the abbey of Feverſham in Kent.

In this reign there was a great fire in London; the city of York was burnt to the ground; Rocheſter was alſo burnt to the ground.

V. HENRY

*First of Plantagenets, now* HENRY *reigns,*
*Fam'd for his pow'r, his luſt, and large domains;*
*A prieſt imperious vex'd him all his life,*
*His ſons prov'd rebels, and a ſhrew his wife.*

# HENRY II.

HENRY PLANTAGANET, the ſon of the Empreſs Maud by Geoffrey earl of Anjou, was crowned in 1154, in the 23d year of his age. In 1159, Henry concluded a marriage between his eldeſt ſon and Margaret the daughter of the French King, though the young Prince was only five years of age, and the Princeſs but ſix months old. The old Duke of Britany alſo gave his daughter Conſtance in marriage to Geoffrey, another of Henry's ſons, then in his cradle.

HENRY was diſturbed at home by the arrogance of Thomas Becket, whom he had raiſed from a mean degree to the ſee of Canterbury, and the dignity of High Chancellor. The diſpute ran ſo high, that the Archbiſhop was obliged to fly the kingdom. The affair, however, being at length determined, Becket returned to England, and raiſed ſuch diſturbances, that four Knights, thinking to pleaſe the King, murdered him in his cathedral of Canterbury. This prelate was afterwards honoured with the title of a Martyr,

Martyr, and canonized by the name of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

HENRY ſailed with a numerous fleet to Ireland, and landing at Waterford on the 18th of October 1172, all the Iriſh Princes voluntarily ſwore allegiance to him; ſo that he became maſter of that kingdom without blood-ſhed, and divided great part of the country among the Engliſh nobles, *&c.* who attended him in the expedition; from whom ſprung the principal families in Ireland. The ſame year, the Pope's legate prevailed on the King to do pennance, by going bare-foot three miles to Becket's ſhrine; and to be ſcourged by the Auguſtine Monks, who gave him fourſcore laſhes on his naked back.

HENRY met with great vexations in his own family: Eleanor his queen, being jealous of Roſamond, the lord Clifford's daughter, who was the King's miſtreſs, and whom he kept at Woodſtock in a labyrinth built to ſecure her from the Queen's rage, found means to diſpatch her by poiſon; and the young Princes his ſons, being joined by ſeveral of the nobility, and aſſiſted by the Kings of France and Scotland, raiſed a great rebellion. King Henry, however, took the King of Scotland priſoner, and became maſ-

ter of the principal places in Guienne, Anjou, Poictou, and Britany, reſtored the young Princes to favour, and pardoned all the revolters; but obliged the King of Scotland to pay him homage for his kingdom.

HENRY was ſo mortified at the diſobedience of his ſons, that through grief he fell ſick at Chinon in Touraine, and perceiving his end draw near, gave orders for his being carried into the church, where he expired before the altar, on the 6th of July 1189, in the 57th year of his age, and the 35th of his reign. He was ſtripped by his domeſtics, and left quite naked in the church: but was afterwards buried at Fonteveraud in Anjou.

HENRY was of a middle ſtature; his hair was buſhy, he had a Roman noſe, and his legs were ſomewhat deformed: he was valiant and learned, prudent and polite, generous, and of a mild diſpoſition; among his vices, luſt was his predominate paſſion.

In his reign lions were firſt kept in the Tower of London. London bridge was rebuilt with timber. There was an earthquake, by which the church of Lincoln and ſeveral others were deſtroyed.

VI. RICHARD

# VI. RICHARD *the* FIRST, *from* 1189 *to* 1199.

RICHARD, *for boist'rous courage chiefly known*
*Wasted his years in countries not his own;*
*A pris'ner long, at last untimely slain;*
*England had small advantage from his reign.*

# RICHARD I.

RICHARD, the eldeſt ſon of Henry II. who was from his bravery ſurnamed Cœur de Lion, or Lion-hearted, was 32 years of age when his father died. He was crowned in Weſtminſter Abbey on the 3d of September 1189. On the day of his coronation, the Jews of London flocking to make preſents to him, the mob robbed and murdered all they met with, plundered, and ſet fire to their houſes. At York 500 Jews, beſides women and children, ſhut themſelves up in the caſtle, and there died by their own hands rather than ſubmit to their perſecutors.

RICHARD had no ſooner aſcended the throne, than he went to the Holy War, in conjunction with Philip King of France. Richard, being driven by contrary winds to the iſle of Cyprus, landed his troops there, and took Iſaac, the King of that iſland, and his daughter priſoners; conquered the whole country, was made King, and afterwards transferred his right to that iſland to Guy Luſignan, titular King of Jeruſalem, in exchange for that empty title. Hence the Engliſh Monarchs were

for

for a long time ſtiled Kings of Jeruſalem.

RICHARD ſailed from Cyprus to Paleſtine, where he joined the French King, &c. and was very inſtrumental in the reduction of the city of Acre; before which place above 200,000 Chriſtians were killed. He afterwards ſeized Aſcalon, Joppa, and Cæſarea.

In the abſence of Richard, which laſted four years, Prince John his brother uſurped the ſovereign authority; but the King ſoon ſuppreſſed his brother's party, levied a numerous army, and invaded France, and at the battle of Blois, Richard took all the archieves of the French kingdom. After which he was preparing to return to England, when a gentleman of Limoſin, having diſcovered a treaſure upon his eſtate, the King claimed it as a ſovereign of Guienne; the gentleman took ſhelter in the caſtle of Chaluz, which the King beſieged; in reconnoitring the walls, he received a wound, of which he died on the 6th of April 1199, aged 42, after a reign of nine years and nine months. The caſtle being taken before the King died, he ordered all the garriſon to be hanged; but pardoned the man who wounded him.

He appointed by will his brother John to ſucceed him in all his dominions.

VII. JOHN, *from* 1199 *to* 1216.

JOHN's *reign was full of troubles and turmoils,*
*From his bad conduct, and from prieſtly wiles;*
*England's great Charter, by the Barons won,*
*He gave; but to the Pope reſign'd his crown.*

# JOHN.

JOHN, ſurnamed Lackland, the brother of Richard, aſcended the throne without much oppoſition in 1199; for though Arthur Duke of Britany, ſon of Geoffrey, the late King's brother, had the hereditary right, yet John was elected King, on condition that he ſhould reſtore and eſtabliſh the rights of the people. He was then 32 years of age, and having alſo ſeized the dutchy of Normandy, he left Arthur only the poſſeſſion of ſome of the provinces enjoyed by the Engliſh in France.

JOHN had ſeveral conteſts with the Pope, who had excommunicated him, and abſolved the people of England from their oath of allegiance, and now ſent Pandulph his Nuncio into England, who offered him the Pope's protection, on condition of his taking an oath to obey the Pontiff in all things, and reſign his crown into the hands of the Nuncio. To this John conſented, repaired to Dover church, and in the preſence of the people took off his crown, diſrobed himſelf of all his enſigns of royalty, and laid them

at the feat of the Nuncio, who was seated on a throne. After which he signed a charter, whereby he resigned the kingdom of England and the lordship of Ireland to the Holy See, and bound himself as a vassal to pay 700 marks annually for England, and 300 for Ireland, and then did homage to the Pope in the person of his Nuncio, who kept the crown and sceptre five days in his possession.

The English Barons, fired with indignation at this meanness, had recourse to arms, and demanded a re-establishment of the laws of Edward the Confessor, and a renewal of the charter of Henry the First; which being refused by the King, they elected Robert Fitz-walter for their General, entered London, and besieged him in the Tower. The King complied, when he could no longer resist, and agreed to meet the Barons in Runnemead, or the Mead of Council, between Stains and Windsor; and there being unable to obtain supplies from his people, and also too weak to withstand them, granted whatever they desired, and hence arose the famous charter of liberties called *Magna Charta*, which he was obliged to sign, and also the charter of the liberties of the forest, which

which have been since esteemed the foundation of the English liberties. The King, however, though he had ratified these charters with a solemn oath, brought over an army from Flanders, and ravaged the whole kingdom; upon this the Barons applied for assistance from the King of France, promising the crown to his son Lewis, if he freed them from John's tyranny. Lewis soon came to their assistance, landed at Sandwich, and took Rochester, while John retired to Wincheſter, having prevailed on the Pope to excommunicate both the French King and the English Barons; but being deserted by some of his mercenaries, the Dauphin besieged Dover, while the Barons invested Windsor; after which the country was ravaged by both parties, who came to no engagement. At length, grief and fatigue threw the King into a fever, which is said to have been heightened by his eating of peaches and drinking new ale. He died on the 18th of October 1216, in the 51st year of his age, and the 17th of his reign.

In this reign London Bridge, which was before of wood, was built entirely of stone.

VIII. HENRY *the* THIRD,
*from* 1216 *to* 1272.

*This King chief note in history does gain*
*From civil discords, and the longest reign:*
*Fickle and weak, he saw his crown just gone;*
*Yet dying, left it to his warlike son.*

# HENRY III.

HENRY of Wincheſter was but twelve years of age, when the earl of Pembroke had him crowned at Glouceſter on the 28th of October 1216. The uſual oath was adminiſtered, and the Legate cauſed him to do homage to the Holy See. Many of the Barons who had ſworn allegiance to the Dauphin joined with Henry, and the Pope renewed his excommunication againſt Lewis; after this, a truce was concluded and prolonged till Eaſter; ſoon after which, the French laid ſiege to Lincoln caſtle, but being unſucceſsful in that and ſome other attempts, Lewis was obliged to come to a compoſition, and agreed to return home, and to reſtore the Engliſh dominions in France.

HENRY began his majority with exacting large ſums, and annulling the two ſacred charters granted by his father. He landed in Britany with a numerous army, and then ſpending his time in diverſions, ſhamefully returned, after he had ſpent all his treaſure. He afterwards renewed the war in

in which he loſt all Poictou, and then concluded a truce with Lewis for five years, to purchaſe which Henry conſented to pay him 5000 l. annually.

The King met with many mortifications from his parliament and people, who at length obliged him to renew the two charters; which was done in Weſtminſter-Hall, in the following manner, *viz.* the Peers being aſſembled in the preſence of the King, each holding a lighted taper, the Archbiſhop of Canterbury denounced a terrible curſe againſt thoſe who ſhould violate the laws, or alter the conſtitution of the kingdom; then the charters were read aloud, and confirmed by the King, who all this time kept his hands upon his breaſt; after which, every one threw his taper on the ground to raiſe a great ſmoke, and wiſhed, *That thoſe who violated the Charters might ſmoke in Hell.* After which, the parliament granted him a ſubſidy for ſuppreſſing an inſurrection in Gnienne. He ſoon reduced that province, and returned to England, where he renewed his exactions. Prince Richard, Henry's brother, being elected King of the Romans, took the immenſe ſum of 700,000 l. into Germany to ſupport his election; while the King

King amaſſed 950,000 merks for an expedition to the Two Sicilies which were offered him by the Pope; though the crown belonged to Conradin, the Emperor Conrad's ſon. In ſhort, the people were grievouſly oppreſſed, and the Barons, finding that Henry could not be bound by the moſt ſolemn oaths, undertook to reform the government; accordingly commiſſioners were choſen by the King and the Barons, and articles agreed on, which the King again broke. At laſt they came to an open war, when a deciſive battle was fought near Lewes in Suſſex, in which the Kings army was defeated, and himſelf, Prince Edward, and the King of the Romans, taken priſoners; but afterwards the earls of Leiceſter and Glouceſter quarrelling, the latter joined Prince Edward, who had eſcaped from his keepers, and uniting their forces, marched againſt the earl of Leiceſter, whom they defeated and ſlew. The King was ſet at liberty, but peace was not reſtored till ſome time after, when Prince Edward engaged in a cruſade and went to the Holy Land. Henry died at London, Nov. 20, 1272, aged 68, in the 56th year of his reign, and was buried in Weſtminſter-Abbey.

IX. ED-

*Far distant, when acknowledg'd, Edward came*
*Assum'd the crown, and rul'd with matchless fame,*
*Welch, Scots, he conquer'd, made and unmade Kings,*
*Reform'd the law, and clipt the clergy's wings.*

# EDWARD I.

EDWARD, surnamed Longshanks, was aged 33, when his father died, and was crowned on his return from Palestine, where with only 10,000 Englishmen, he struck a general panic into the Saracens. He narrowly escaped being murdered there by an assassin, from whom he received a wound in his arm which was given by a poisoned dagger; and it is affirmed that he owed his life to the affection of Eleanor his wife, who was with him, and sucked the venom out of the wound. He arrived in England with his faithful Queen on the 25th of July, 1274, and they were both crowned at Westminster, on the 19th of August following. He began his reign with a strict enquiry into the affairs of his kingdom, *&c.* and confirmed the great charter.

He then set about rectifying the coin which had been so much adulterated by the Jews, and caused 280 of them to be put to death.

EDWARD, having defeated and killed Lewellyn, a petty King of Wales, who had revolted,

revolted, afterwards ſummoned a parliament at Ruthen, where it was reſolved that Wales ſhould be inſeparably united to England. But ſome of the Welch nobles telling the King that he would never peaceably enjoy their country, till they were governed by a Prince of their own nation, he ſent for his Queen, who was then pregnant, to lie in at Caernarvon, where ſhe was brought to bed of a Prince, whom the ſtates of Wales acknowledged for their Sovereign; and ſince that time the eldeſt ſons of the Kings of England have borne the title of Prince of Wales. Edward baniſhed 15,000 Jews for uſury and adulterating the coin. Soon after this, Queen Eleanor died at Grantham in Lincolnſhire; to whoſe memory the King erected a croſs at every place where the corpſe reſted in the way to Weſtminſter.

EDWARD carried his arms into Scotland, where he took the three important places of Berwick, Dunbar, and Edinburgh. John Baliol their King, who was ſupported by Edward, repaired to him in the moſt humble manner, renewed the oath of fealty, and put the whole kingdom in his power. While Edward was in Flanders, endeavouring to recover ſome dominions he had loſt in France

by

by treachery, William Wallace, the glory of Scotland, rose up in the defence of his country, and having suddenly dispossessed the English of all the strong places they held, was declared regent of the kingdom; on which Edward hastily returned from France, advanced into Scotland at the head of a powerful army, and defeated Wallace, who several years after, was betrayed into the hands of the English and sent to London, where Edward treated him with unpardonable severity, and made this great hero suffer the death of a traitor. Edward thrice conquered Scotland, and at length vowed that he would destroy that kingdom from sea to sea, but was seized with a dysentry, and died in the little town of Burgh on the 7th of July 1307, in the 68th year of his age and the 35th of his reign, but his body was interred in Westminster-Abbey.

EDWARD was a head taller than the generality of men; his person was well made, strong, and handsome; but his legs being rather too long, he was thence called Longshanks. His regard for the laws was so great that he publicly imprisoned the Prince of Wales his son, for breaking into the park of the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry.

X. EDWARD

# X. EDWARD *the* SECOND, *from* 1307 *to* 1327.

*Of perſon comely, but of genius mean,*
*Oppos'd by faction, and a faithleſs Queen;*
*For crimes of favourites harraſs'd and dethron'd,*
*Oppreſt by murd'rers, poor Caernarvon groan'd.*

# EDWARD II.

EDWARD of Caernarvon was twenty three years of age when his father died. He recalled Pierce Gaveſton, whom his father had baniſhed, and by his will enjoined him not to aſſociate with; and then married Iſabella the daughter of the French King, and they were both crowned at Weſtminſter on the 24th of February 1308. His ridiculous fondneſs for Gaveſton created innumerable diſputes. At length the Barons had recourſe to arms, and Gaveſton was beheaded. Mean while the Scots gained three victories over the Engliſh, and made themſelves maſters of every place in Scotland.

King Edward now raiſed the two Spencers, father and ſon, to the ſummit of power; but they were baniſhed by the parliament. The King levied an army, took ſome caſtles from the Barons, and recalled the Spencers. Edward afterwards invaded Scotland; but wanting proviſions, returned without ſtriking a blow; on which Bruce King of Scotland purſued him to York, deſtroyed 20,000 of the Engliſh, and then conſented to a peace.

The

The two Spencers incurred the gener hatred; and Queen Iſabella fled to Franc with her ſon, whence the nobility ſent fo her, and ſhe with a numerous army march ing towards London, the King fled into th Weſt: but ſhe ſtill purſuing him, he ſe ſail for Ireland, but was driven back int Wales. Hugh Spencer the father, bein taken, was, without a trial, hanged an quarter'd, and the King himſelf was ſen priſoner to the Queen; and the youn Spencer was hanged on a gallows fifty fee high.

The Queen now forgot every call of na ture and duty, and was entirely governed by Mortimer, whom ſhe took to her bed King Edward was depoſed, and the ſon pro claimed King; they having obliged the old King to reſign in the 43d year of his age and the 20th of his reign; after which he was treated with the greateſt indignities and at laſt cruelly murdered; for ſome aſ ſaſſins covered him with a feather-bed, and held him down, while others thruſt a horn pipe up his body, through which they con veyed a red hot iron, and burnt his bowels to prevent any external appearance of vio lence.

XI. EDWARD

# XI. EDWARD *the* THIRD, *from* 1327 *to* 1377.

*Triumphant Edward, the Black Prince's sire,*
*In peace and war, we honour and admire;*
*France conquer'd, Scots subdu'd, preserve his name*
*But his last days eclips'd his former fame.*

# EDWARD III.

EDWARD of Windsor was crowned at the age of 14, on the 26th of January 1327. Though the parliament appointed a regency, the Queen and Roger Mortimer had the sole rule. By their influence the young King renounced all his pretensions to Scotland, and gave his sister in marriage to David Bruce, King of the Scots; but afterwards becoming sensible of his error, he caused the Queen his mother to be confined for life, and Mortimer Earl of March to be hanged at Tyburn. He then broke the truce with Scotland, and invaded that kingdom; won four battles in a short time, and obliged King David to fly with his Queen into France, when he set up Edward Baliol in his room. Edward now laid claim to France, for Charles, his mother's brother, dying, Philip of Valois had possessed himself of the kingdom, alledging the Salique law; but Edward asserted that the Salique law, in excluding females from the succession, did not exclude their male issue, on which he grounded his title. His first campaign passed without blood-

blood-shed; but he took the title of King of France, and quartered his arms with the *Flower de luce*, adding the motto, *Dieu et mon droit*, or, *God and my right*.

In his second attempt, he defeated the French fleet, destroyed or took 370 of their ships, and 30,000 men; then besieged Tournay, but being called home to oppose the Scots, concluded a truce for one year with King Philip. The next campaign, he wasted all the country up to the walls of Paris, and obtained the glorious battle of Cressy, which was won by the Prince of Wales, who was then only sixteen. The French were defeated, with incredible slaughter. The King of Bohemia also died in the field; when his standard, on which were in gold, three Ostriches feathers, with these words *Ich dieu*, that is, *I serve*, was brought to the Prince of Wales; who, in memory of that victory, bore the Ostrich feathers in his coronet with the same motto. In this battle the French lost eleven Princes, and 30,000 common soldiers, a greater number than the whole army of the conquerors, whose loss was very inconsiderable. When the victory was over, the king tenderly embracing the Prince, "My gallant son, he said, you

"have nobly acquitted yourself, and well "are you worthy of the kingdom." Six weeks after this, Edward's Queen defeated the Scots, and took king David prisoner. These memorable battles were fought in 1346. Edward then laid siege to Calais, which he was obliged to reduce by famine, and then returned to England. He then sent over his son the Black Prince, who, after taking several towns, totally routed the French army commanded by king John, who had succeeded Philip; and, in this glorious battle, which was fought near Poictiers, took the King, many nobles, and a multitude of private men prisoners, though the French army was six times as numerous as the English.

There were at this time two kings prisoners in England; the French king, who was lodged at the Savoy, which was then a Palace; and the king of Scotland, who was confined at Odiham in Hampshire. They were both treated with great respect. The French king paid for his ransom 500,000 l. and a considerable extent of country; and the king of Scots was ransomed for 100,000 merks. The French king afterwards returned to England, and kept his court at the

the palace of the Savoy, where he died in 1363.

A tedious war was afterwards carried on againſt the Black Prince by Charles the French king, in which ſeveral battles were fought, to the diſadvantage of the Engliſh, who loſt all they had ſo bravely conquered in France, except Calais, to which the death of the Black Prince greatly contributed.

At length Edward, after having ſettled the ſucceſſion, was taken ill, and died at Richmond in Surry on the 21ſt of June 1377, in the 65th year of his age, and the 51ſt of his reign, and was buried in Weſtminſter-Abbey. Edward the Black Prince has a monument in the cathedral of Canterbury.

This Prince inſtituted the order of the garter, which is ſaid to have had its riſe from the counteſs of Saliſbury's dropping her garter at a ball, which the King taking up, and obſerving her in a confuſion, preſented it to her, ſaying, HONI SOIT QUI MALY PENSE, *Evil to him who evil thinks*, when obſerving ſeveral of the Nobles ſmile, he added, *Many a man has laughed at the garter, who will think it a very great honour to wear ſuch a one.*

## XII. RICHARD the SECOND, *from* 1377 *to* 1398.

*Richard, from valiant ſire and grandſire ſprung,*
*Prov'd weak, perverſe and raſh, for he was young;*
*Yet brave, from rebels did defend his throne,*
*And when depos'd, loſt not his life alone.*

# RICHARD II.

RICHARD of Bourdeaux, the ſon of Edward the Black Prince, was but eleven years of age, when he was crowned at Weſtminſter, on the 16th of July 1377. He was put under the tuition of his uncles, John Duke of Lancaſter, and Edmund Earl of Cambridge. In this reign, a poll-tax was paſſed, at 12d. per head, on all above the age of 16. This being levied with ſeverity, cauſed an inſurrection in Kent and Eſſex; at the head of which were Wat Tyler and Jack Straw. Tyler refuſing to pay for his daughter, alledging ſhe was under the age ſpecified in the act, the collector uſed her with great indecency; on which Tyler beat out his brains with a hammer; then making known the occaſion of the murder, he was ſoon joined by above 100,000 men, who advanced to London, cut off the heads of all the Lords, Gentlemen, and Lawyers, they met with, and plundered and deſtroyed many houſes, *&c.* The King himſelf was obliged to come to a conference with Wat Tyler in Smithfield; when William Walworth,

Mayor of London, gave Tyler such a blow on the head with his sword, that he fell dead at his feet; soon after which they dispersed.

The King knighted Mr. Walworth, and ordained that the Mayor of London should ever after bear the title of Lord, and that the dagger should be added to the city arms, which was before a plain cross.

The rebellion also extended into Norfolk and Suffolk, but it was soon suppressed; and the King sent an army into Kent and Sussex, to punish the ringleaders, and Jack Straw, with about 1500 of his followers, were hanged.

The King's fondness for his favourites, Robert de Vere Earl of Oxford, whom he created Duke of Ireland, and Michael de la Pool, who was made Earl of Suffolk, raised such discontent, that the Barons twice had recourse to arms, and at length obliged the King to take refuge in the Tower, and afterwards forced him to resign the crown. Henry Duke of Hereford, the son of John of Gaunt, was then declared King. Richard was removed to Pontrefract castle, where Sir Pierce de Exon with eight ruffians, in hopes of pleasing Henry, rushed in upon him; when

when Richard, reſolving to die like a man, wreſted a pole-ax from one of them, and laid four of them dead at his feet; but Exton mounting on a chair behind him, gave him ſo violent a blow on the head with a club that he fell down ſenſeleſs, and thus died in the 33d year of his age, after a reign of 22 years.

King Henry IV. ordered his body to be removed to Weſtminſter-Abbey, and cauſed a monument to be erected to his memory, and to that of his Queen, in Edward the Confeſſor's chapel.

In the fourth year of his reign, a mortality almoſt depopulated the north of England: In his ſixth year ſeveral churches were thrown down by an earthquake: In his twelfth year, there was a great plague and famine; and in this reign guns firſt came into uſe. It is alſo worthy of remark, that peaked, high-toed ſhoes, faſtened to the knees with ſilver chains, were in faſhion about the middle of this King's reign; and ſoon after ſide-ſaddles were uſed, and long gowns worn, which were introduced by the Queen, a Bohemian Princeſs; for before that time, the Engliſh women rode a-ſtride like the men.

XIII. HENRY *the* FOURTH, *from* 1399 *to* 1419.

*Lancastrian* HENRY *now the throne possest,*
*A Prince of no mean politics confest;*
*But courts the priests their favour to engage:*
*Hence Lollards felt dire persecution's rage.*

# HENRY IV.

HENRY IV. ſurnamed Bolingbroke, was raiſed to the throne as a reward for his paſt ſervices, though Edmund Mortimer was preſumptive heir to the crown, as being deſcended from the daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence, the third ſon of king Edward III. while Henry, Duke of Lancaſter, was the ſon of John of Gaunt, the younger brother of Lionel, and the fourth ſon of Edward III.

HENRY Duke of Lancaſter was proclaimed King on the 30th of September 1399, the very day on which Richard was depoſed.

The dukes of Albemarle, Surry and Exeter, the earls of Saliſbury and Glouceſter, the biſhop of Carliſle, and Sir Thomas Blount, being Richard's friends, formed a conſpiracy in the year 1400, in order to aſſaſſinate Henry, and reſtore Richard to the throne: But being diſcovered, and their whole ſcheme fruſtrated, they aſſembled an army of 40,000 men, and ſet up Maudlin, a prieſt, whoſe perſon reſembled Richard's, to pretend that he was Richard himſelf: In this they alſo

failed; moſt of the leaders were taken and beheaded, and Maudlin was hanged at London; and this conſpiracy haſtened the death of the late King, who was ſoon after baſely murdered at Pontefract.

HENRY uſed great ſeverity towards the Lollards, or the followers of Wickliffe; and had William Sawtree, a clergyman, burnt in London as a heretic.

In 1402, Henry cauſed Roger Clarendon, the natural ſon of Edward the Black Prince, and ſeveral others, to be put to death, for maintaining that Richard was alive. The ſame year he married Joanna of Navarre, widow of the Duke of Brittany.

About this time, the Scots invaded England under the earl of Douglas; but were defeated at Hallidon-hill by the earl of Northumberland and his ſon Henry Hotſpur with the loſs of about 10,000 men; and in this victory ſeveral Earls, and many other officers were made priſoners; but the King ordering Northumberland to deliver up the priſoners into his hands, the Earl was ſo exaſperated, that he, with Henry Piercy, ſurnamed Hotſpur, his ſon, and other Lords, agreed to crown Edmund Mortimer earl of March, whom Glendour kept priſoner in Wales.

Wales. The rebel army encamped near Shrewsbury, headed by Henry Hotspur, the earls of Worcester, and the Scotch earl of Douglas; and the King marched directly thither, with 14,000 choice troops, headed by himself, the Prince of Wales, and the Scotch earl of March; and on the 22d of July, at a place afterwards called Battle-field, the King obtained so complete a victory, that about 10,000 of the rebels were killed, among whom was the brave Hotspur, who fell by the hands of the Prince of Wales.

In the year 1405 another conspiracy was raised, at the head of which was the Archbishop of York, the earl of Northumberland, Thomas Mowbray earl Marshal, and other noblemen, who assembled a large body of troops at York, and published a manifesto, declaring the King a traitor, and that they were resolved to place Mortimer the lawful heir on the throne. But this rebellion was soon suppressed by the good policy of Ralph Nevil, earl of Westmorland.

HENRY died in the Jerusalem-chamber at Westminster, on the 20th of March 1413, in the 46th year of his age, and the 14th of his reign, and was interr'd in the cathedral at Canterbury.

# XIV. HENRY *the* FIFTH, *from* 1413 *to* 1422.

*All conqu'ring Henry's parts and proweſs rare,*
*The glorious fields of Agincourt declare;*
*A vicious Prince, a virtuous King became;*
*But prieſts indulg'd, kept England in a flame.*

# HENRY V.

THIS Prince was the eldeſt ſon of Henry IV. and was born at Monmouth in 1388. In his youth he was led into wild courſes; but in the midſt of all his extravagancies, he gave a ſingular proof of his moderation in ſuffering himſelf to be led into priſon, by order of the Lord Chief Juſtice, whom he ſtruck in the execution of his office; and this circumſtance gave the people the greateſt hope that he would ſoon change his conduct, nor were they diſappointed. He ſucceeded to the throne at 25 years of age, and was crowned at Weſtminſter on the 9th of April 1413. The next year Commiſſioners were appointed for adjuſting the diſputes between the crowns of England and France; but Henry, ſeeing that nothing could be done by negociation, reſolved to have recourſe to arms, when Henry Chichely Archbiſhop of Canterbury, adviſed him to lay claim to the whole kingdom of France, as the heir and ſucceſſor of Edward III. This war was approved by the Parliament. He therefore demanded the crown of France

as

as his right, upon which, the Dauphin in contempt, ſent him a preſent of a ton of tennis-balls, to let him know, that he thought him fitter for play than for war; but Henry ſent him word, that he would ſoon repay him with ſuch balls as the ſtrongeſt gates of Paris ſhould not be rackets ſufficient to rebound.

Accordingly, in 1415, Henry embarked his army, amounting to 50,000 men, about the beginning of Auguſt, on board 1500 tranſport ſhips; and landed at Havre-de-Grace in Normandy on the 21ſt of Auguſt, and immediately laid ſiege to Harfleur, which ſurrendered in five weeks. Soon after which, the French having aſſembled an army ſix times ſuperior to the King's, they challenged him to fight, and Henry accepted it, though the French army conſiſted of 150,000 men, and the Engliſh were reduced to 9000. The French therefore made rejoicings in their camp as if the Engliſh were already defeated, and even ſent to Henry to know what he would give for his ranſom; to which he replied, that a few hours would ſhew whoſe care it would be to make that proviſion. The Engliſh, though fatigued with their march, ſick of a flux, and almoſt

most ſtarved for want of food, were inſpir-ed by the example of their brave King, and reſolved to conquer or die. In this ſitua-tion Henry ſent David Gam, a Welch cap-tain to reconnoitre the enemy, who bravely reported, That *there were enow to be killed, enow to be taken priſoners, and enow to run away.*

The King was encamped, October 25, 1415, on a plain near Agincourt, and hav-ing drawn up his ſmall army into two lines, (the firſt commanded by the Duke of York, and the ſecond by himſelf) he diſpoſed his few men to ſo much advantage, and be-haved with ſuch extraordinary conduct and courage, that, by the bleſſing of divine pro-vidence, whoſe aſſiſtance he publicly and ſo-lemnly implored before the action, by offer-ing up prayers, and exhorting his troops to place all their truſt in GOD, he gained a complete victory, after having been ſeveral times knocked down, and in the moſt im-minent danger of loſing his life. The En-gliſh killed upwards of 10,000 men, and took more priſoners than they had men in the army; but an alarm being given, that the French had plundered the Engliſh camp, and were returning to the fight, they were ordered

ordered to kill all their prisoners: an order which their own self-preservation rendered necessary: but the English soldiers had too much humanity to execute it: upon which a band of ruffians were employed in this massacre.

HENRY publicly returned thanks to GOD, and acknowledged that his success was owing to the favour of Heaven. The loss of the English was no more than 400 men.

In 1417, the King, in order to carry on the war, mortgaged his crown for 100,000 merks, and part of his jewels for 10,000l. He landed at Beville in Normandy, on the first of August, with 25,000 men, reduced Caen, *&c.* and the next year all Normandy fell again to the English.

On the 25th of May 1420, a treaty was concluded at Troy between England and France; wherein it was agreed, that the crown of France should descend to the king of England and his heirs, and that Henry should marry Catherine the king of France's daughter; which being performed, he returned to England with his Queen, who was crowned the year following at Westminster.

HENRY

HENRY the next year advanced into rance with 30,000 men; but while he was arching towards the river Loire, he was ized with a pleuretic fever, and was car- ed to Vencennes, where he ſent for his other, the Duke of Bedford, &c. and re- mmended Bedford to take upon him the dminiſtration of affairs in France, and that e Duke of Glouceſter might be Protector f England; and expired about two hours fter, on the 31ſt of Auguſt, in the 35th ear of his age, and the 10th of his reign. is body was carried to Calais, whence it as conveyed to England, and interred in eſtminſter-Abbey.

This King was brave, prudent, magna- imous, and merciful; and though he died the flower of his age, few Princes have ft behind them ſuch ſhining proofs of e- ery royal virtue.

This reign was filled with too many glo- ious actions to permit hiſtorians to record rifling circumſtances. It is worthy of re- ark, however, that on Candlemas-day 415, ſeven Dolphins were ſeen playing the river Thames, and four of them aken.

XV. HENRY

## XV. HENRY VI. *from* 1422 *to* 1461.

*Meek, mild and merciful, but weak his sway;*
*A King of France, the French would not obey:*
*Tho' brave his Queen, the Yorkists seiz'd his throne,*
*And his son's murder usher'd in his own.*

# HENRY VI.

HENRY of Windsor was only nine months old when his father died. This young Prince was proclaimed king of England and heir of France; and his uncles, John Duke of Bedford and Humphrey Duke of Glouceſter, were reſolved to maintain what his father had procured for him. But as Charles VI. died at Paris on the 20th of October 1421, the face of affairs was ſoon changed in France. Henry was proclaimed King at Paris, and the Dauphin at Poictiers, and ſeveral battles were fought in which the Engliſh had generally the advantage. The earl of Saliſbury had inveſted Orleans, and when it was near being ſurrendered, a country girl, named Joan of Arc, who had been bred to the keeping of ſheep, undertook to deliver France from the Engliſh. She bore the arms and habit of a man, headed the French, and by her frequent and ſucceſsful ſallies, obliged the Engliſh to raiſe the ſiege; then purſued and harraſſed them, retook ſeveral places, attacked and defeated the brave Lord Talbot, and took him priſoner.

ſoner. At length, after a number of aſtoniſhing exploits, this great heroine was taken at Compaigne, and burnt for a witch by the Duke of Bedford's order.

At twelve years of age, king Henry was carried to France, and crowned at Paris; but ſtill the war continued. The Duke of Burgundy, who had been in the Engliſh intereſt, joined with Charles, and Paris ſhook off its allegiance to Henry. The Duke of Bedford died about this time; ſo that a truce was concluded, when king Henry's marriage with Margaret of Anjou, the daughter to the titular king of Sicily, contributed to compleat his misfortunes.

The Queen determined to ruin the Duke of Glouceſter, who was preſumptive heir to the crown. He was ſeized, and being cloſely confined, was the next day found dead in his bed, ſmothered by the Queen's order. Glouceſter's death occaſioned the Duke of York to lay claim to the Crown.

This Prince was deſcended from Lionel Duke of Clarence, third ſon to king Edward III. and king Henry was deſcended from John of Gaunt duke of Lancaſter, the fourth ſon of the ſame Monarch; ſo that the right of primogeniture was plainly on the Duke's ſide.

This

This reign was full of domeſtic broils. The Duke of York's intereſt gained ground, and his arms were at firſt ſucceſsful againſt the King, over whom he gained a complete victory at St. Albans, took the King priſoner, and conducted him to London; and calling a parliament in Henry's name, was declared Protector of the kingdom.

The Queen raiſed an army in the North, and the Duke of York advanced to meet her; but his army being inconſiderable, he was defeated and ſlain at Wakefield, and his youngeſt ſon the earl Rutland, not above twelve years old, was cruelly killed by Lord Clifford; and the earl of Saliſbury was beheaded.

Richard Plantagenet duke of York, being thus dead, Edward earl of March, his eldeſt ſon, took his title, and aſſerted his claim to the crown with an army of 23,000 men, and being victorious in ſeveral engagements, marched directly to London, obliged the Queen to return into the North, and was unanimouſly acknowledged King.

Thus ended the reign of Henry VI. which had laſted 38 years and an half.

XVI. ED-

## XVI. EDWARD *the* FOURTH, *from* 1461 *to* 1483.

*Not unmoleſted, Yorkiſh* EDWARD *reign'd;*
*Yet, when victorious, he the throne maintain'd:*
*Revengeful, jealous, politic, but lewd;*
*His virtues were by luxury ſubdu'd.*

# EDWARD IV.

EDWARD came to the throne in the year 1461, and the 20th of his age; no ſooner was he proclaimed King, than he purſued the Queen into the North, and both armies meeting, a bloody battle was fought, in which 30,000 men were ſlain, and the King and Queen defeated; on which King Henry and Margaret fled with the young Prince to Edinburgh; but Henry returning into England ſoon after in diſguiſe, was ſeized and conducted on a wretched horſe, with his legs tied to the ſtirrups, to the Tower.

The Earl of Warwick had been the chief inſtrument in raiſing Edward to the throne, but that Prince employing him to negociate a marriage for him in France, and in the mean time marrying Elizabeth the widow of Sir John Grey, the Earl was ſo exaſperated that he raiſed a rebellion, in which he twice defeated the King's forces, and afterwards took his Majeſty priſoner, and confined him in Middleham caſtle, from whence he eſcaped, and joining the Lord Haſtings in

in Lancaſhire, returned to London; whe another battle enſued, and Warwick's arm being defeated, he was obliged to fly int France: The earl of Warwick landed ſoo after at Dartmouth with a few troop which he ſoon increaſed to 60,000 men upon which Edward alſo raiſed a numerou army at Nottingham, but as his enemie were advancing, the cry of king Henry wa raiſed in his camp, on which Edward fle into Flanders. Warwick then took Henry out of the Tower, and he was again acknowledged the lawful King of England. But Edward afterwards returning to London, he was received with acclamations of joy, and Henry again was committed to the Tower.

Another battle was fought at Barnet, between king Edward and the earl of Warwick, in which the great earl of Warwick was ſlain, and 17,000 men. Some days after, the remainder of the Earl's army was aſſembled by the Lancaſtrians, and being joined by other forces, was headed by the Queen, when Edward defeated her at Tewkſbury, and took her priſoner, with her ſon Prince Edward, the Duke of Somerſet, &c. The Prince being carried to Edward's camp, was

was aſked why he was ſo raſh as to enter the kingdom in arms, to which boldly replying, that he came to recover his right, unjuſtly uſurped, Edward ſtruck him with his gauntlet on the mouth, when the Dukes of Glouceſter and Clarence, the Earl of Dorſet and the Lord Haſtings, ſtabbed him with their daggers, and thus maſſacred an amiable Prince in the 18th year of his age. And ſoon after king Henry was murdered in the Tower by the Duke of Glouceſter, or, as others ſay, died with grief in the 5th year of his age.

Queen Margaret, after being four years confined in the Tower, was ranſomed by her father for 50,000 crowns. Edward cauſed his brother, the Duke of Clarence, to be drown'd in a butt of ſack. At length king Edward was ſeized with a fever, or, according to others, with an apoplexy, and died at Weſtminſter on the 9th of April 1483, in the 42d year of his age, and the 23d of his reign. King Edward had a curious monument in the new chapel in Windſor, founded by himſelf. Jane Shore, whom Edward had from her huſband, was his favourite miſtreſs, for which ſhe was perſecuted in the reign of Richard III. and did public penance in St. Paul's church.

# XVII. EDWARD *the* FIFTH, *Two Months and twelve Days of* 1483.

*Poor child! how short his reign! domestic strife*
*Untimely clos'd his own and brother's life;*
*He saw each faithful friend by fraud expire,*
*By* RICHARD'S *fraud, who did to rule aspire.*

# EDWARD V.

THE young Prince was at Ludlow when his father died, but, being ſent for to London, was trepanned by his uncle the duke of Glouceſter, and lodged in the Biſhop of London's palace, where on the 4th of May 1484, he received the oaths of the principal nobility, and Glouceſter was made Protector of the King and kingdom; he obliged the Queen to deliver up to him the duke of York alſo, and then ſent them both to the Tower under a pretence of preparing for the coronation; the Tower at that time being a royal palace, from which the proceſſion at coronations was uſually made to Weſtminſter. Mean while the Duke of Glouceſter, by the aſſiſtance of Stafford Duke of Buckingham, Sir John Shaw Lord Mayor of London, and Dr. Shaw his brother, had his two nephews, and even the late King, declared illegitimate, and himſelf acknowledged king of England, pretending at the ſame time to accept the crown with reluctance; though, to produce this revolution, he had put to death the Lord Haſtings, who

was ſtrongly attached to the young King.

As Lord Haſtings was greatly beloved by the people, Glouceſter pretended, that the ambition of Haſtings had endangered the ſafety of the kingdom; though in fact he was arreſted only on a trump'd-up charge of ſorcery. The Queen and Jane Shore were accuſed as his colleagues, and Shore was taken into cuſtody, but was ſoon after releaſed on doing pennance.

Richard's firſt care was to diſpatch the young Prince; and Sir Robert Brachenbury, Lieutenant of the Tower, refuſing to comply with his cruel deſigns, he for one night only, gave the command of the Tower to Sir James Tyrrell, and he procured two villains, who in the dead time of night entered the chamber where the Princes lay, and ſmothered them in bed. After which, they were buried under the ſtair-caſe, where their bones were diſcovered 191 years afterwards, and by order of king Charles II. depoſited in Weſtminſter-abbey, and a ſmall monument erected to their memory in Henry the VIIth's chapel.

The tyrant Richard, his tool Buckingham, and the other murderers, were ſoon after overtaken by the arm of the Almighty.

XVIII. RICH-

# XVIII. RICHARD *the* THIRD, *from* 1483 *to* 1485.

RICHARD, *with deep hypocriſy endu'd,*
*Ambitious, cruel, deſtitute of good;*
*Did public praiſe obtain by wholeſome laws;*
*And bravely fell, had virtue been the cauſe.*

# RICHARD III.

RICHARD, the brother of king Edward IV. and the uncle and murderer of king Edward V. was proclaimed King on the 20th of June 1483, but was not crowned till the 6th of July. He was now in the 32d year of his age, and as he had waded to the throne through injuſtice and violence, he endeavoured to gain the favour of the nation by popular laws. However, though he had promiſed the duchy of Hereford to the Duke of Buckingham, his chief inſtrument, he refuſed to perform that promiſe. At this Buckingham being exaſperated, left the court, and entered into a confederacy with Henry earl of Richmond, the next heir to the crown of the Lancaſter race, who was ſtill in Britany, where his mother informed him of what had happened in England, and deſired he would ſpeedily land in Wales. Mean while, the King ſuſpected a conſpiracy, and ſent for Buckingham to court, who refuſed to obey the ſummons, immediately collected his forces in Wales, and began to march towards the weſtern

western counties; but the Severn rising with a great inundation, he was unable to pass that river, and his army dispersed, and left him only with a single servant. In this melancholy situation he retired into Shropshire, and sheltered himself in the house of Ralph Bannister, who had been his servant, and received many favours from him, but the King offering 1000l. reward for the taking of him, Bannister villainously betrayed his master, who was beheaded at Shrewsbury without any legal process.

The earl of Richmond at length sailed for England with 40 ships and 5000 men, but his fleet being dispersed in a storm, he was obliged to return. Upon this Richard cruelly sacrificed all whom he suspected to favour the Earl, concluded an alliance with the Scots, and even corrupted the Duke of Britany's treasurer to destroy Richmond, but he saved himself by escaping into France.

As Henry had solemnly engaged to marry Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward IV. Richard poisoned his own wife, and then endeavoured without effect to prevail on the young Princess his niece to accept him for her husband. Mean while Henry landed at Milford-Haven with only 2000

men, immediately began his march towards Shrewſbury, and was joined by many of the nobility with all the forces they could raiſe. At length both armies met at Boſworth, the King having 13,000 men, and the Earl only 5000. The engagement was hot and doubtful, till the Lord Stanley, and his brother joined the Earl with freſh troops, when Richmond ſoon obtained the victory, in which king Richard ſoon loſt his life; and the crown being found in the field of battle, was placed on Henry's head. Richard's body was after the battle, found entirely naked, covered with blood and dirt, and being thrown a-croſs a horſe was conveyed to Leiceſter, and interred without the leaſt ceremony.

Thus fell Richard on the 22d of Auguſt 1405, in the 34th year of his age, and the 3d of his reign. He was from his deformity ſurnamed Crook-back'd, and one of his arms was almoſt withered. He had a ſolid judgment, and was naturally brave.

RICHARD left only a natural ſon, who, perceiving his father's fate, went to London, and put himſelf apprentice to a bricklayer, which buſineſs he occupied to his death.

XIX. HENRY

*The first of Tudor's race, of high renown,*
*'Spite of Pretenders held the English crown;*
*Subtile, profound, his projects tended still,*
*To fix his empire, and his coffers fill.*

# HENRY VII.

HENRY, having defeated king Richard, was crowned at Weſtminſter on the 30th of October 1485, and the next year married the lady Elizabeth the eldeſt daughter of king Edward IV. by which means the two houſes of York and Lancaſter became united. However, the houſe of York procured one Lambert Simnel, a young ſtudent of Oxford, to pretend that he was the ſon of the duke of Clarence, brother to king Edward IV. but after being crowned King in ſeveral places he was defeated and taken priſoner: yet the King ſpared his life, made him turnſpit in his kitchen, and afterwards his falconer.

Soon after, Margaret Ducheſs of Burgundy, a Princeſs of the houſe of York, introduced another Pretender named Perkin Warbeck: he perſonated Richard Duke of York, Edward the fifth's brother who was ſmothered with that Prince in the Tower. This adventurer attempted to land in Kent with a few followers; but ſeveral of his adherents being executed, he fled to Ireland, and

and from thence to Scotland, where he married the Earl of Huntly's daughter, and was twice sent with an army into England by the King of Scotland; but, being both times defeated, was obliged to retire into Cornwall, where he raised an army, with which he laid siege to Exeter; but the King's forces advancing, he fled again; when his wife being taken, a pension was assigned her on account of her family and beauty. Perkin some time after surrendered himself and was committed to the Tower, whence he made his escape; but was again taken, and endeavouring to corrupt his keepers, was at length hanged. Henry also, for his own security, caused the Earl of Warwick, the Duke of Clarence's son, whom Simnel had personated, and who had been confined in the Tower from his infancy, to be beheaded.

King Henry married his eldest son Arthur to Catharine, the daughter of Ferdinand, King of Spain, and his daughter Margaret, to James King of Scotland; when England being blessed with tranquility, he was continually making use of new means to heap up riches for which he had no use; for this purpose he employed Sir Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley, two lawyers, who

caused many wealthy persons to be indicted for several crimes, and then obliged them to compound with the King; by which, and other illegal and shameful oppressions, the King amassed 1,800,000l. sterling, which was more than double the value in our present money.

At length Henry grew so absolute that no man durst oppose him. But a little before his death, he ordered by his will, that his heirs should restore what his officers and ministers had unjustly taken from his subjects. He died at Richmond in Surry, on the 22d of April 1509, in the 53d year of his age, and the 24th of his reign, and was interred in his own new chapel at Westminster. Both the chapel and his monument are exquisite pieces of workmanship.

Henry exceeded the common stature, was strait-limbed, but slender, and had a handsome person. In the year 1487, he instituted the Star-chamber, under the pretence that channels of justice were corrupted. He promoted commerce, and sent Sebastian Cabot to make new discoveries in America. In his 15th year was a great plague, of which 30,000 died in London.

XX. HEN-

## XX. HENRY VIII. *from* 1509 *to* 1547.

HENRY, *of haughty mind, and ſturdy mein,*
*With fury reign'd, and often chang'd his Queen;*
*Diſown'd the Pope, yet kept us Papiſts ſtill,*
*And burn'd both ſides, who dar'd conteſt his will.*

# HENRY VIII.

HENRY VIII. was born at Greenwich on the 28th of June 1491, and ſucceeded his father Henry VII. on the 22d of April 1509, in the 18th year of his age. He redreſſed the grievances of the former reign, put Empſon and Dudley to death, and wrote a book againſt Luther; on which the Pope conferred on him and his ſucceſſors the title of Defender of the Faith. Soon after his acceſſion, he paſſed over into France, and took Terouane, Tournay, and ſome other places. In the mean time, King James of Scotland invaded England, but was defeated at the famous battle of Flodden field, when King James, many nobles, and 9000 common ſoldiers were ſlain.

In this reign Thomas Wolſey, the ſon of a butcher at Ipſwich, from being a common Prieſt was at length raiſed to the See of York, the dignity of a Cardinal, and the poſt of Lord High Chancellor of England. His pride encreaſed with his riches, and he cauſed the Duke of Buckingham to be beheaded for ſaying, *That if the King died with-*

*without heirs, he thought he had a right to the throne;* but the real cauſe was his affronting the Cardinal by pouring water into his ſhoes, when he had the impudence to dip his hands in the baſon while the Duke held it to the King to waſh. Cardinal Wolſey afterwards loſt the favour of the King, and was arreſted for high treaſon; this threw him into a fit of illneſs of which he died. King Henry having conceived a paſſion for Anna Bullen, cauſed his Queen Catharine to be divorced, under pretence of her having been firſt married to his brother Arthur; and married Anna Bullen, Nov. 14. 1532, and ſhe was crowned the firſt of July following. By the former he had Mary, and by the latter Elizabeth. The Pope now threatened to excommunicate Henry, both he and the parliament were ſo exaſperated, that in 1534, they paſſed an act, aboliſhing the papal authority in England. The Parliament now acknowledged the King ſupreme head of the church; for refuſing to acknowledge which, Biſhop Fiſher, Sir Thomas Moore, and others, loſt their heads.

HENRY was then excommunicated, and his ſubjects abſolved from their allegiance; upon which the King ſuppreſſed their monaſteries,

naſteries, and ſeized their revenues, *&c.*

Queen Anna Bullen lived with the King only till ſhe had born the Princeſs Elizabeth. Soon after which, ſhe was cruelly beheaded, with ſome of her relations and domeſtics, on a charge of incontinency; of which there is the greateſt reaſon to believe her innocent. Henry then married Jane Seymour, who died in child-bed of Prince Edward; when it being impoſſible to ſave both, he was aſked which ſhould be ſpared, the mother or the child; he replied, *That he could eaſily procure another wife, but was not ſure that he ſhould have another ſon.* He next married Anne of Cleves, whom he ſoon divorced, and then beheaded; as he did Thomas Lord Cromwell for promoting that match. His fifth wife Catharine Howard was like Anna Bullen, beheaded for adultery; and Deerham, Mannock and Culpepper, confeſſing that they had often lain with her, were all three beheaded. But Catharine Parr, his laſt wife ſurvived him.

HENRY died in the night between the 28th and 29th of January 1547, in the 57th year of his age, and 38th of his reign, and was interred at Windſor.

XXI. ED.

## XXI. EDWARD *the* SIXTH, *from* 1547 *to* 1553.

*Edward was learn'd, meek, pious, juſt and ſage;*
*A man in council though a child in age;*
*He laid the baſis of the church we boaſt,*
*But by his uncle's quarrels oft was croſt.*

ED-

# EDWARD VI.

EDWARD, the only ſon of King Henry VIII. and Jane Seymour, aſcended the throne at nine years of age, when he was well ſkilled in the Latin and French tongue, and had acquired ſome knowledge of the Greek, Italian and Spaniſh, and was committed to the care of ſixteen perſons, whom Henry had nominated Regents of the kingdom and governors of his ſon; the chief of whom was the Earl of Hertford, the King's uncle by the mother's ſide, who was ſoon after made Duke of Somerſet, and was Protector to the young King.

HENRY left the Reformation very imperfect, but the Protector and his friends, aſſiſted by Archbiſhop Cranmer, *&c.* made uſe of this opportunity to improve it.

The young Queen of Scotland was now demanded in marriage for King Edward; but the ſame propoſal being made by France in behalf of the Dauphin, ſhe was ſent into that kingdom; on which the Duke of Somerſet invaded Scotland, routed the Scotch army at Muſſelburgh, and tho' the Duke's army

rmy amounted only to 18,000 men, and he Scots to 30,000, the Scots were defeated vith the loſs of 14,000 killed, and 1500 pri-oners; and, what is ſurprizing, the Engliſh re ſaid to have loſt only 51 horſe-men and ne foot-ſoldier.

Private maſſes were now laid aſide: pray-rs were read in Engliſh, *&c.* However, Joan Bocker, embracing the opinions of the Ger-nan Baptiſts, was burnt as a heretic; but he young King ſet his hand to the warrant vith tears in his eyes, telling Archbiſhop Cranmer, *That if he did wrong, ſince it was in ſubmiſſion to his authority, he ſhould anſwer to God for it.*

Theſe alterations, however, occaſioned great diſturbances in different parts of the kingdom, which were at length ſuppreſſed, ſome by force of arms, and others by pro-clamation for a general pardon.

The Duke of Somerſet's great power raiſed him many enemies, the chief of whom was his brother Thomas Lord Seymour; but ar-ticles of accuſation being exhibited againſt him, he was attainted in Parliament, and without an open trial condemned and be-headed. The Duke of Somerſet was ſome time after impeached, and charged with a

deſign

design to seize the King and to imprison the Earl of Warwick, which was both felony and treason, and though he was acquitted of treason he was condemned for felony; and the young king being with great difficulty prevailed on to sign the sentence, he was executed some time after. The Earl of Warwick, now Duke of Northumberland, succeeded to the Earl of Somerset's power, and at length (on the King's being taken ill of the measles) married the Lord Guilford Dudley, his fourth son, to the Lady Jane Grey, eldest daughter to the Duke of Suffolk, and persuaded Edward to settle the crown on her, his sisters Mary and Elizabeth having been both declared illegitimate during the life-time of their father; and the Prince hoping to save the reformation from impending destruction, appointed her his successor, and soon after died, on the 6th of July 1553, in the 16th year of his age and the 7th of his reign. He was interred in Westminster-Abbey, but his monument was afterwards destroyed in the civil wars.

Edward's person was very beautiful; he had great sweetness of temper, and was remarkable for piety and humanity.

XXII. MARY

## XXII. MARY *the* FIRST, *from* 1553 *to* 1558.

*When bloody* MARY *sway'd the* English *throne,*
*The good her Brother did was soon undone.*
*Thro' her short reign tho' much too long was seen*
*A wretched bigot, and a cruel Queen.*

# MARY I.

THE Duke of Northumberland kept th death of the young King for ſom time concealed; and when the Lady Jane who was diſtinguiſhed by her beauty, vi tue and great learning, was informed o the ſettlement which her couſin Edward ha made of the crown, ſhe was with difficult prevailed on to receive the offered enſign of royalty, and was proclaimed at Lond with the uſual formalities. In the mea time the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk de clared for Mary, and furniſhed her wit troops, on her promiſing to leave religio in the ſame ſtate ſhe found it. The Duke o Northumberland marched from London a the head of a ſmall army to oppoſe them; but being deſerted by his troops, he endea voured to ſave himſelf, by declaring for Mary; and in Cambridge market-place he proclaimed her Queen. The Duke of Suf folk was now ordered by the Council to de liver up the Tower, and the Lady Jane Grey to quit the title of Queen, and reſign her pretenſions.

MARY

MARY was determined to sacrifice to her safety or vengeance those whom she considered as her principal enemies. The Duke of Northumberland, with several other persons of distinction, were tried for high treason and executed.

Queen Mary was crowned on the first of October 1553. She soon after married Philip II. King of Spain, and openly declared for Popery. An insurrection in Kent was raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, who was beheaded; and the Duke of Suffolk, endeavouring to raise forces in Warwickshire, not only that Duke, but his daughter the Lady Jane Grey, and the Lord Guilford Dudley his son in law, were beheaded.

Persecution for religion was now carried to a most terrible height: Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer and Ferrar, with some hundreds of other persons of different ranks and both sexes, were cruelly burnt alive. The Princess Elizabeth was closely watched, and obliged to dissemble her religious sentiments: and her answer to Gardiner who put the dangerous question concerning these words of Christ, *This is my body*, was full of caution, and a proof of her wit and good sense.

Christ

*Christ was the* Word *that spake it;*
*He took the* Bread *and brake it;*
*And what the* Word *did make it,*
*That I believe and take it.*

The people of England were greatly disgusted at the behaviour of Philip, who soon after his arrival declared war against France, and obtained a supply of 8000 English, by whose assistance the French were defeated at the battle of St. Quintin, but they soon after took Calais, which was the only strong place the English had left in France. Philip had before been greatly disgusted with the Queen, for falsely imagining herself with child: and this, added to the loss of Calais, threw her into an ill state of health; and while the people saw nothing but cruelty in the Council, poverty in the Exchequer, pride in the Court, dissention at home, and contempt abroad, Mary who had been long afflicted with the dropsy, died at St. James's on the 17th of November 1558, in the 43d year of her age, after a reign of five years, four months, and eleven days; and was interred with great pomp in King Henry the VII's chapel at Westminster.

XXIII. ELIZA

*The fam'd* ELIZA'S *long and glorious reign,*
*Quell'd Romish superstition, humbled Spain;*
*Invasions, plots, her genius soar'd above;*
*Bless'd in her servants' and her subjects' love.*

# ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH was proclaimed Quee the ſame day her ſiſter died. Th Houſe of Commons addreſſing the Queen t marry, ſhe excuſed herſelf by ſaying, *Th by the ceremony of her inauguration ſhe was ma ried to her people.*

The Dauphin having married Mary Quee of Scotland, they, in the beginning of El zabeth's reign, aſſumed the title of Kin and Queen of Scotland, England and Ir land. But Mary becoming a widow, by th death of Francis II. King of France an Scotland, ſhe quitted the title of Queen o England, and returned to her own kingdom She then married her couſin Henry Stewa Lord Darnley; but being accuſed of ma familiarities with Rizzio, her huſband b came jealous, on which the Earl of Mort and ſome others murdered Rizzio. Quee Mary now beſtowed all her favours on th Earl of Bothwell, who murdered the Ki ſoon after her delivery of a Prince, who w afterwards James I. King of England, an a few months after the murder, that Ea marri

married the Queen. Mary being now in danger of her life from the measures taken to destroy her, fled to England, where she was imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth. The new-born Prince was immediately set on the throne of Scotland; and Mary, after eighteen years confinement, was beheaded for a conspiracy carried on in her favour.

Queen Elizabeth assisted to the utmost of her power the Protestants both of France and Holland. Philip II. King of Spain, exasperated at the assistance Elizabeth his sister-in-law had given the Dutch, though he had before sought her in marriage, now formed the design of dethroning her, and prepared a prodigious fleet, which was called the Invincible Armada; but that fleet having entered the Channel, was bravely and successfully attacked by Elizabeth's Admirals, on the 21st of July 1518; when after a bloody engagement, the English Admirals convinced the seamen, that the dreadful apprehensions they had entertained of the large Spanish ships were groundless. The action was renewed on the 23d, when a sharp engagement ensued off Portland. A running fight was continued the next day; and on the 25th another terrible re-

encounter happened off the isle of Wight. The Spaniards then bore down to the coast of Flanders, and were still pursued by the English; who in the night of the 28th sent eight fire-ships among the Spanish fleet, which had anchored off Calais. The Spaniards then cut their cables and put to sea, and were pursued by the English, who took some of the ships, and drove the rest on the coast of Zealand; but the wind chopping about, they escaped, and returned home by sailing round Scotland and Ireland; in which attempt, several of the ships were taken by the English, and many of them were wrecked by tempests on the coast of Ireland. Thus Providence seconding the endeavours of our fleet, very few of that Armada, were able to get back into the ports of Spain. Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Francis Drake, Captain Hawkins, and Captain Forbisher, were the chief commanders.

The Spaniards lost 32 capital ships, and according to some accounts 81 vessels large and small, with 13,500 men. Queen Elisabeth, in the medal she struck on this astonishing victory, piously ascribed the glory of all to God.

She

She the next year ſent a fleet of 100 ſail under the command of Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Norris, who plundered the Groyne: and, being joined by the Earl of Eſſex, took Peniche, ſeized 60 ſhips in the Tagus, and deſtroyed Vigo.

The Spaniards, in 1596, were preparing to invade England again with a numerous fleet: upon which the Queen fitted out a fleet of 150 ſail, with 22 Dutch ſhips, under Howard, Eſſex, Raleigh and Vere; when the Spaniſh fleet which lay at Cadiz was defeated by Raleigh, who took four ſhips, and the reſt, which conſiſted of 13 men of war, 11 ſhips freighted for the Indies, and 33 others, were burnt by the Spaniſh Admiral himſelf, after his having offered in vain to ranſom them for two millions of ducats. The ſtores prepared againſt England were ſeized, the city plundered and burnt to the ground, and the loſs of the Spaniards was eſtimated at 20 millions of ducats. The Engliſh then burnt ſeveral villages along the coaſt, and returned to England with a prodigious booty.

The Earl of Eſſex, who was the Queen's favourite, was ſent as Deputy-Lieutenant to Ireland, with 20,000 men, to quell a re-

bellion raiſed there by the Earl of Tyrone, who aſſumed the title of King. Eſſex, finding he had enemies near the Queen, ſollicited in vain to return to England; he then grew inactive, and the rebels gained ground. At length concluding a truce with Tyrone, he returned to England; but was ſoon after ſuſpended from all his employments, and afterwards attempting a change in the miniſtry, he was beheaded. Tyrone was at length defeated by Lord Mountjoy, and implored the Queen's mercy.

ELIZABETH died on the 24th of March 1603, in the 70th year of her age, and the 45th of her reign. She was interred in Henry the VII's chapel.

Her ſtature was ſomewhat tall, and her limbs ſtrong. Her hair inclining to red, and her complexion fair. Her voice was loud and ſhrill, yet ſhe ſung gracefully, and played well upon ſeveral inſtruments. She underſtood the Greek, Latin, French, Spaniſh, and Dutch languages: ſpoke all but the laſt with great fluency, and encouraged them at her court.

## XXIV. JAMES I. *from* 1603 *to* 1625.

*England's first Stuart, from the Scottian clime,*
*Learn'd, but pedantic; peaceful to a crime;*
*His weak, yet arbitrary acts, prepare*
*A scene of ills for his succeeding heir.*

# JAMES I.

ON the death of Queen Elizabeth James VI. of Scotland was the next heir to the crown, he being deſcended from the eldeſt daughter of King Henry VII. and in him the crowns of England and Scotland were united. King James and his Queen were crowned at Weſtminſter, on the 25th of July 1603.

In 1605, the Gunpowder Plot, to deſtroy both the King and Parliament, was diſcovered by an anonymous letter, directed to Lord Monteagle. In a cellar under the Parliament-houſe, there were found 36 barrels of gunpowder, upon which were laid bars of iron, maſſy ſtones, *&c.* near to which was Guy Faux, one of the traitors, concealed with a dark lanthorn, and three matches, who inſtantly confeſſed himſelf guilty; and he together with Sir Everard Digby, Cateſby, and ſeveral others were executed. Frederick Elector Palatine, married the King's daughter Elizabeth, from which marriage the preſent Royal Family deſcended; the Princeſs Sophia, King George the First's

First's mother, being the immediate issue of it. A little before this marriage, Prince Henry, the King's eldest son, and Prince of Wales, died in the 18th year of his age. It was generally believed he was poisoned by Rochester the royal favourite.

The great Sir Walter Raleigh, the glory of his country, had been thrown into prison for being one of the principals in a ridiculous plot, pretended to have been form'd in favour of King James's cousin-german, the Lady Arabella Stuart, before James's coronation, of which he was unjustly found guilty, without legal proof, and had been fourteen years confined in the Tower, when he was discharged, and sent on an expedition in quest of a gold mine, on the coast of Guiana; but returning without effecting the discovery, to please the Count of Gondomer, the Spanish Ambassador, he was shamefully re-committed to the Tower, and cruelly beheaded on his former sentence.

The Dutch, who owed their very existence as a free people to England, now despised James's power, and massacred the English at Amboyna; where they put the factory to death, and seized their effects.

King James's ſon, Charles, Prince of Wales, was married to the daughter of the French King Henry IV. and as ſhe was a Papiſt, ſhe eſtabliſhed that religion in the family of the Stuarts. King James died on the 27th of March 1625, in the 59th year of his age, and the 22d of his reign over England, and was buried in Henry the VIIth's chapel, in Weſtminſter-Abbey.

King James was homely in perſon. He was, however, called the Solomon of his age, though he made the great duties of the King ſubſervient to the idle diſtinctions of the pedant. His ignorance of the Engliſh conſtitution, induced him to ſtrain the royal prerogative. He had, however, ſome virtues blended with his many vices, and he promoted the commerce of the kingdom.

In 1606, Virginia, which had been diſcovered by the unhappy Sir Walter Raleigh, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, was now planted with an Engliſh colony; ſoon after which New-England, and the Bermuda iſlands, were made Engliſh plantations.

XXV. CHARLES

XXV. CHARLES *the* FIRST,
*from* 1625 *to* 1649.

*Unhappy Prince, his fate atones his fault,*
*Not weak, but obſtinate, and badly taught:*
*Our conſtitution, hurt by lawleſs deeds,*
*Is quite ſuſpended when the Monarch bleeds.*

# CHARLES I.

KING Charles was born at Dumfermline in Scotland on the 19th of November 1600, and ſucceeded his father James I. in the 25th year of his age, but was not crowned till the 2d of February 1626. He was tinctured from his infancy with his father's principles, relating to the royal prerogative.

King Charles ſoon after his marriage entered into a war with Spain, and ſent a fleet againſt Cadiz, which proved unſucceſsful. However, reſolving to carry on the war, and the exchequer being exhauſted, he called a parliament, when ſupplies not being granted, he had recourſe to raiſing money without a parliament.

He then declared war againſt France, in which meeting with no ſucceſs, a peace was concluded between England, France and Spain. After this the King called another parliament, and endeavoured to have the duty of tonnage and poundage (granted only for certain purpoſes) put intirely into his hands: but the parliament not complying, he diſſolved them. The revenues of the

he crown being now insufficient for its sup-
ort, the Ministers proceeded to the follow-
ng rigorous methods of raising money, *viz.* They exacted the duty of tonnage and poun-
lage; granted very numerous monopolies, extending even to old rags; a general loan was proposed, and the people had soldiers billeted on them to compel payment, and several gentlemen were imprisoned for not subscribing; and a tax was imposed under pretence of protecting the coast from pi-
rates. The dissenters were severely perse-
cuted, and the King obtained considerable sums by heavy fines imposed in the Star-Chamber.

After a long disuse of parliaments, Charles was obliged to call one in 1640; they re-
newed the complaint of grievances; extort-
ed a favourable declaration from the King, and even obliged him to make the Parlia-
ment perpetual, unless they consented to their dissolution.

Wentworth, Earl of Stafford, and Laud Archbishop of Canterbury being the King's principal advisers, were both tried and be-
headed at some distance of time from each other.

A rebellion broke out in Ireland, in which

which 150,000 Proteſtants were cruelly put to death in cold blood by the Papiſts pretending that they acted by the King's authority. This therefore was charged to the King's account, tho' he ſolemnly diſclaimed it. In ſhort, tumults between the King and Parliament now began to run high; but the firſt act of hoſtility was the King's appearing before Hull, and ſummoning Sir John Hotham, the Governor, to ſurrender, which he abſolutely refuſed.

King Charles then ſet up his ſtandard at Nottingham; and the Parliament raiſed forces and made the Earl of Eſſex their General; and ſoon after a battle was fought near Edge-hill, in which each party claimed the victory, and about 5000 men were killed on both ſides.

The next year the King's army was ſucceſsful in ſeveral battles in the Weſt of England; but his forces in the North were entirely routed at Marſton-moor, and the King engaging with Eſſex again at Newbury, was obliged to retreat with conſiderable loſs.

In 1645, Sir Thomas Fairfax was made General in Chief over the Parliament's forces, in the room of the Earl of Eſſex, and

Olive

Oliver Cromwell was appointed Lieutenant General; when the two armies coming to an engagement the Parliamentarians obtained a complete victory.

The next year the King made his escape to the Scotch army; but the Scotch, after many debates, at last consented to deliver up his Majesty to the Parliament, in consideration of the sum of 400,000l. which was done at Newcastle, on the 30th of January, 1647, when he was escorted by Sir Thomas Fairfax, with 900 horse, to Holmby-house in Northamptonshire.

CROMWELL, who had distinguished himself by his military bravery, now ingratiated himself with the soldiery, and at length, became formidable to the Parliament itself. He introduced the officers, and some of the most sensible of the common soldiers into the House of Commons, under the name of Agitators; and Cromwell acted as their King. They sent to Holmby and took the King into their hands; and at length brought him to St. James's, when an order was passed for bringing him to trial; accordingly a new Court was erected, called the High Court of Justice. The president was John Bradshaw, Serjeant at Law. The

King

King being several times brought before the Court and disowning its authority, sentence was pronounced against this unhappy Monarch, on the 27th of January 1649, and on the 30th of the same month it was put in execution; when his head was severed from his body on a public scaffold at Whitehall. The King was in the 49th year of his age, and 24th of his reign, when he was thus cut off. On the scaffold he declared himself a Protestant, and denied his having any ill designs on his people. This Monarch had many private virtues, and would probably have been a worthy Prince had it not been for the principles imbibed in his education, and the ill advice of his Ministers.

His person was handsome, and he was of a healthy constitution of body.

The

## The COMMON-WEALTH of ENGLAND, *from* 1649 *to* 1658.

THE Parliament had no ſooner deſtroyed the King, than they declared the royal power dangerous, and voted the Houſe of Lords uſeleſs. They next appointed 40 members of the executive power, under the title of *The Council of State.*

CROMWELL was then ſent into Ireland to reduce the rebels; and in about nine months made great progreſs towards the reduction of that iſland; but the Scots revolting and calling over the young King, the Parliament ſent for Cromwell in haſte, and a battle was fought on the 3d of September 1650, at Worceſter, in which Cromwell defeated the King's army. His Majeſty on this fled to the houſe of William Penderel, at Boſcobel, on the confines of Staffordſhire, where he lodged at night in a garret, and in the day, ſat in a large oak in an adjacent wood; at length he eſcaped to Normandy.

CROMWELL afterwards defeated the Scots at Dunbar, took Edinburgh caſtle, and entirely reduced that kingdom.

CROM-

CROMWELL, in 1653, ſet up a counci of ſtate, who ſome time after, gave him th title of *Lord Protector of England.*

The Commonwealth was long at war wit the Dutch, and in ſeveral battles at ſe the Engliſh diſtinguiſhed themſelves by a amazing intrepidity; in one of which th Engliſh with 106 ſhips, beat the Dutch wh had 120.

CROMWELL made peace with the Dutc and joined France and Spain. He obtain Dunkirk, took Jamaica, and in ſhort mad his name univerſally formidable.

At length Cromwell died on the 3d September 1658, about which time, ther was one of the moſt violent tempeſts eve known in England.

Soon after the Protector's death, the peo ple turned their thoughts to the reſtoratio of the Royal Authority and Family, whic was brought about by General Monk; an King Charles II. was invited to Englan and proclaimed King, May 8, 1660. On th 28th he landed at Dover, and on the 29t made his public entry through London o horſeback, attended by his two brother James Duke of York, and Henry Duke o Glouceſter.

XXVI. CHARLE

XVI. CHARLES II. *Nominally from* 1649, *actually from* 1660 *to* 1683.

*Gay, sprightly, heedless, affable and lewd,*
*In Charles' court few cares did long intrude;*
*But Popish influence stain'd his latter day,*
*With plots and fines, and arbitrary sway.*

# CHARLES II.

CHARLES II. was crowned on the 23d of April 1661; one of the firſt laws paſſed in his reign was an act of indemnity, excepting thoſe perſonally concerned in the death of his father, and a few others.

King Charles was married to Catharina, Infanta of Portugal; and in 1664, entered into a war with the Dutch, in which ſeveral naval battles were fought, and in particular a very bloody one on the 3d of June 1665; when Opdam, the Dutch Admiral, loſt his life, together with his ſhip, and 19 others were either taken, burnt, or ſunk; but in 1667, the Dutch ſailed up the Medway, and even burnt many of our ſhips at Chatham; ſoon after which a peace was concluded.

In 1678, one Titus Oates went into Spain, and having informed himſelf of a plot formed by the Pope, the King of France, the Duke of York, and others, applied to Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, a juſtice of peace in Weſtminſter, and repreſented to him that they had formed a deſign to murder the King, and ſubvert the Proteſtant religion in

n England. On this Sir Edmundbury God-rey took his depoſition; but was ſoon after nurdered, and his body found in a ditch. ſeveral perſons were tried and hanged for hat murder.

The Preſbyterians were then charged with plot by the Papiſts; and for this pretend-d conſpiracy, the brave Lord Ruſſel, Co-onel Sidney, and the Earl of Eſſex loſt heir lives.

In 1667, Lord Chancellor Hyde, whoſe aughter had been married to the Duke of ork, was diſgraced and went to France here he wrote his hiſtory of the rebel-ion.

Though the Duke of York was a bi-otted Papiſt, yet that was made ſo great a ecret, that people were ſeverely fined for nentioning it. The King ſeemed to eſpouſe he intereſt of France more than his own; nd even ſuffered Lewis XIV. to be ſupplied with Britiſh timber for building ſhips; and, elling Dunkirk, which Cromwell had pro-ured for England, employed the purchaſe-noney in his pleaſures.

King Charles died on the 6th of Februa-y 1685, in the 55th year of his age, after eigning twenty-four years, eight months and

and nine days, and was buried in Westminſter-Abbey.

This King had a ſwarthy complexion, a ſevere and diſagreeable countenance; but was tall, and admired for his great affability and eaſineſs of acceſs.

As during Cromwell's government, enthuſiaſm ſpread throughout the kingdom, religion was now laid aſide, and the ſmalleſt appearance of it was repreſented as ridiculous. In this reign Milton wrote his Paradiſe Loſt, and Butler his Hudibras. Waller, Cowley, Dryden, and Roſcommon alſo did honour to the nation by their writings.

In 1665 a plague carried off in London 70 or 80,000 perſons. In 1666 was the dreadful fire which burnt above 13,000 houſes and 90 churches. In this reign a perſon, whoſe name was Blood, ſtole the crown, ſceptre, and regalia, out of the Tower, but was diſcovered and taken. In 1683 there was ſo ſevere a froſt from the middle of November to the 5th of February, that hackney coaches plied on the Thames.

XXVII. JAME

*Blinded with zeal, this furious Popiſh King,*
*Rome's yoke to England ſought again to bring:*
*He, whilſt he reign'd, uſurp'd a lawleſs ſway,*
*'Till William came, and open'd freedom's day.*

# JAMES II.

JAMES Duke of York was proclaimed King on the 6th of February 1685, without any great marks of joy being discovered. However, in the Privy Council he made a ſpeech, promiſing to preſerve the government both of the church and ſtate; yet he went publicly to maſs two days after his acceſſion.

The coronation of the King and Queen was ſolemnized on the 3d of April. Titus Oates, the diſcoverer of the popiſh plot in the late reign, was now puniſhed with exceſſive ſeverity, though he proteſted the veracity of his teſtimony. Mr. Dangerfield and Mr. Richard Baxter alſo received ſevere treatment: the former for diſcovering a pretended plot, and the latter for reflecting on the Prelates.

The Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme in Dorſetſhire with only 83 followers, on the 11th of June, and immediately publiſhed a declaration, That his ſole motive for taking arms was to maintain the Proteſtant religion and to deliver the nation from the uſurpation

ion and tyranny of James Duke of York, nd that his mother was actually married to King Charles II. But this attempt did not meet with the desired success, he was taken risoner, and beheaded on Tower-hill, on uly 15, 1685.

Those who had espoused his cause, were ow butchered by military execution under General Kirk, or barbarously executed by a form of law under Judge Jefferies.

In short, about 600 persons were hanged by Jefferies, and the steeples, tower gates, nd roads, were stuck with the heads and imbs of those who had been the Duke's dherents.

Several arbitrary and scandalous proceedings were carried on against the Protestants at the instance of the King.

Mean while the Queen was said to be delivered of a Prince on the 10th of June 1688, though such measures were taken, as raised a suspicion of its being a design to impose an heir upon the kingdom. This event alienated the minds of the Princesses Mary and Anne, the King's own undisputed children by Lady Anne Hyde.

The Prince of Orange, Stadtholder of the United Provinces, had married Mary, King

James's eldeſt daughter, and was himſelf the ſon of that King's eldeſt ſiſter; he naturally attracted the regard of the people of England, who applied to him for deliverance from the oppreſſion and tyranny of James; accordingly the Prince of Orange landed at Torbay on the 5th of November 1688, and was joyfully received by the people.

His Majeſty now appointed commiſſioners to treat with the Prince of Orange about terms of accommodation. The Prince made his propoſals with great moderation; but James choſe to deſert his kingdom rather than retract what he had done in favour of the Popiſh religion; and therefore went diſguiſed, and embarked in a veſſel near Feverſham in Kent, where he was ſtopped by ſome fiſhermen and brought back to London; however, he fled a ſecond time, and eſcaped into France, in December 1688. He afterwards made a fruitleſs attempt upon Ireland; and ſpent the laſt twelve years of his life at St. Germains, where Lewis XIV. allowed him a penſion of about 50,000l. ſterling *per annum*. At length, he died in 1701, in the 68th year of his age.

XXVIII. WIL-

## XVIII. WILLIAM *the* THIRD *and* MARY *the* SECOND, *from* 1688 *to* 1702.

WILLIAM *the hero, with* MARIA *mild,*
*(He James's nephew, she his eldest child)*
*Fix'd freedom and the church, reform'd the coin;*
*Oppos'd the French, and settled Brunswick's line.*

## WILLIAM III. and MARY I

UPON King James's departu... Lords and Commons agre... much diſpute, that he had abd... throne. Then the Princeſs Mar... Prince of Orange were proclaimed ... Queen on the 13th of February 1689, ... crowned on the 11th of April followin...

An attempt was made to ſecure Sc... for King James; but on the 27th of ... 1689, the two armies met at Killiecr... in the ſhire of Perth, when Lieutenant-G... neral Mackay, who commanded for Ki... William, obtained a victory; after whic... the whole iſland of Great Britain ſubmitted to King William.

In Ireland, Tyrconnel had diſarmed the Proteſtants in great part of the kingdom, and formed an army of Papiſts, amounting to 30,000 foot and 8000 horſe, while the Proteſtants in the North took up arms for King William. Mean while, James made his public entry into Dublin, and ſoon after put himſelf at the head of 20,000 men, and was twice reinforced by the French with 5000

men each time. James's forces were eated in many battles; and at length William arriving in perſon, he gained nplete victory over James at the battle ne, and thereby eſtabliſhed him- hrone of Ireland.

n left Dublin, and going to took ſhipping for France; where the remainder of his days at St. living upon the bounty of Lewis an annual penſion of 4000 l. ſter- which he received ſecretly from his ry. He died at St. Germains

on after the battle of the Boyne, King liam returned to England; but another tle was fought June 30, 1691, at Augh- n, between the Engliſh commanded by General Ginkle, and the Iriſh aſſiſted by he French; when the Engliſh gained a complete victory. After which Galway urrendered and Limeric capitulated; and hus an end was put to the war in Ire- and.

About this time King William formed grand alliance againſt Lewis XIV. and eaded the allied armies in ſeveral battles; t length the French made overtures of peace

and the treaty was concluded at Ryſ
in 1697.

Whilſt the King was thus engaged abro
his illuſtrious Queen died Decembe
1694, and was greatly lamented on acco
of her uncommon goodneſs.

Several conſpiracies were formed in fa
vour of James during King William's rei
the moſt remarkable of which was the
aſſaſſination plot, for murdering that Prin
in his coach; for which Sir John Fenwick
Sir John Friend, Sir William Perkins, an
others were executed.

King William was thrown from his hor
by which his collar-bone was diſlocated,
he died on the 8th of March 1702, in t
14th year of his reign, and 52d of his a
and was interred next to the Queen in
Henry the VIIth's chapel.

King William was of a brown complexi-
on, had a Roman noſe and a piercing eye;
was of a middle ſtature, and round ſhoul-
dered. One of the laſt acts of his life was
ſigning the bill for ſettling the crown on the
illuſtrious Houſe of Hanover, in caſe Prin-
ceſs Anne of Denmark, who had a little be-
fore buried the Duke of Glouceſter, died
without iſſue.

XXIX. ANNE,

*Ten years of glory brighten'd* ANNA'S *reign,*
*While Marlb'rough's arms did victory maintain:*
*Nor should hard censure shade her closing scene;*
*For tho' misled, well-meaning was the Queen.*

# ANNE.

THE crown devolved to the Princess Anne, daughter of James II. by Lady Anne Hyde, daughter of Lord Chancellor Clarendon. This Princess was born at St. James's, February 17, 1664; was married to George Prince of Denmark, July 28, 1683; and was crowned April 23, 1702.

War was declared against France and Spain on the 4th of May, by the Queen, the Emperor, and the States-General: But the actions were so numerous, that it would be impossible, in the narrow compass we are here confined to, to mention particularly every engagement.

The Duke of Marlborough in 1702, led to the field the army of the allies, consisting of 53,000 foot and 7,200 horse. He took, the first campaign, Venlo, Ruremond, Stephenswert and Liege.

Sir George Rook, the same year, attempted to take a number of galleons at Vigo, but the French set their ships on fire; eleven of which were burnt, and ten taken by the English.

On

On the 2d of Auguſt 1704, Marlborough gained a moſt glorious victory at Blenheim, in which the French had 12,000 men killed, and 14,000 made priſoners, among whom was Marſhal Tallard, ſeven generals, and 1200 other officers; and near 300 ſquadrons, were drowned in the Danube.

Sir George Rook took Gibraltar, after a ſiege of two days, on July 4, 1704. Next year Marlborough with 74,000 defeated the French and Bavarians conſiſting of 75,960.

The ſame year the brave Earl of Peterborough took Barcelona; and next raiſed the ſiege of St. Matheo, and with 1200 men obliged 7000 to fly, took Morviedro, and ſeized Valencia.

On May 12, 1706, Marlborough, with 50,180 men, attacked the French and Bavarians, 61,120 ſtrong, and in leſs than two hours, put their whole army to flight. The enemy had 8000 killed, 4000 wounded, and 6000 taken priſoners.

Marlborough and Prince Eugene, July 11, 1708, defeated the whole French army at Oudenard. The French had 4000 killed and wounded, and 7000 taken priſoners; while the confederates had only 820 men killed. The Duke ſoon after took Liſle,

relieved Bruſſels, and obliged Ghent to ſurrender. During theſe tranſactions, Major-General Stanhope, with 3000 men, landed at Minorca, and took fort St. Philip in three days; and the whole iſland was conquered in three weeks with the loſs of only 40 men.

In 1711, the Duke took Bouchain, and made the garriſon priſoners of war; and this was the laſt ſervice performed in the field by the immortal Duke of Marlborough, who, in the courſe of ten victorious campaigns, had the honour of receiving ten times the thanks of both houſes of parliament; and was at laſt, on the change of Miniſtry, diſmiſſed from all his employments. Theſe wars were at length concluded by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

Parties now ran very high, and theſe animoſities, it is thought, ſhortened the days of the Queen, who died at Kenſington, Auguſt 1, 1714, in the 50th year of her age, and the 13th of her reign, having loſt her royal conſort Prince George about ſix years before. She was privately interred in King Henry the VIIth's chapel.

In this reign the kingdoms of England and Scotland were united.

XXX. GEORGE

## XXX. GEORGE I. *from* 1714 *to* 1727.

*Inur'd alike to council and the field,*
*Before his sway, saw opposition yield.*
*In wisdom and the laws he put his trust,*
*Was cautious, steady, fortunate and just.*

# GEORGE I.

ON the death of Queen Anne, the Privy Council gave orders, that the Elector of Hanover ſhould be proclaimed King; and he was crowned on the 11th of October following. His Majeſty immediately made ſeveral changes in the Miniſtry; and the Duke of Marlborough was reſtored to his former poſts.

Mean while, the Pretender aſſerted his claim to the crown, and it ſoon appeared that James the ſon of King James II. had a conſiderable party in England. John Erſkine Earl of Mar, with ſeveral other noblemen and gentlemen, aſſembled at the Brae of Mar, and on September 16, proclaimed the Pretender King, and their numbers ſoon encreaſed to 12,000 men. The earl of Derwentwater and Mr Foreſter aſſembled their friends in Northumberland, and Foreſter declared the Pretender King at Warkworth. Mean while, Lord Viſcount Kenmure headed ſome noblemen and others in the weſt of Scotland, and at the ſame time declared the Pretender King at Moffat in Annandale.

Kenmure

Kenmure joined Foreſter on the borders of Scotland.

At length M'Intoſh, Kenmure and Foreſter marched to Preſton in Lancaſhire; but the Generals Willis and Carpenter, with nine regiments of dragoons, and one of foot, ſurrounded the places; when Foreſter ſubmitted, and delivered up all his men priſoners at diſcretion.

On the 22d of December, the Pretender landed at Peterhead, and was conducted to Fetteroſſe, where he was proclaimed King. The Duke of Argyle, in January 1716, obliged the rebels to abandon Perth; from whence they returned to Montroſe, where the Pretender privately made his eſcape to France; upon which General Gordon led them into the mountains, where they were diſperſed.

Of the great number who were ſentenced to die for this rebellion, none were executed except the Lord Derwentwater and Kenmure, and a ſmall number of the lower rank.

In 1718, war was declared againſt Spain, when Sir George Byng was ſent with 21 ſhips into the Mediterranean; and on July 31, he defeated the Spaniſh Admiral, took ten men of war, and burnt four, and even made

the

the Admiral and Rear-Admiral prisoners. After which he destroyed seven Spanish men of war, and great quantities of naval stores on the coast of Scilly and Biscay.

In December, a Spanish squadron, with 10,000 regular troops under the Duke of Ormond, was sent to invade England; but were dispersed by a violent storm. However, the Marquis of Tullybardine, and the Earl of Seaforth and Marischal, with 307 Spanish soldiers, landed in Scotland, and were joined by 2000 Highlanders; but General Wightman with 1200 men, on the 10th of June, entirely defeated them.

Lord Cobham then made a descent upon Spain and took Vigo.

In 1727 his Majesty set out for his German dominions, but was taken ill in his coach on the road to Hanover, and died two days after at his brother's palace at Osnaburgh, on the 11th of June, in the 68th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign, and was interred at Hanover.

King George I. was of a moderate stature; his features were regular and manly, and his countenance grave and majestic. He was an able and experienced general, and a consummate politician.

XXXI. GEORGE

*In iſſue, happieſt of the kingly ſtrain:*
*Triumphant o'er rebellion and its train:*
*He ſilenc'd faction, humbled France's pride,*
*He liv'd belov'd, and crown'd with glory dy'd.*

# GEORGE II.

AS his late Majesty died abroad, his death was not known till the 14th of June 1727, and his Majesty King George II. was the next morning, proclaimed King, and he with his Queen were crowned at Westminster, on the 11th of October.

His Majesty found the nation engaged in a war with the Spaniards; but in 1729, a peace was concluded at Seville between Great Britain, France and Spain.

On October 29, 1739, war was declared by England against Spain; and on November 22, 1740, Admiral Vernon, with six ships took Porto Bello. The next year he was sent with 29 ships of the line, with 10,000 soldiers, under the command of Gen. Wentworth, to attack Carthagena; but tho' he destroyed six Spanish ships of the line, and seven galleons, the attempt miscarried thro' a disagreement between the Admiral and the General.

Commodore Anson sailed from England with five men of war in 1740, and after having suffered the most dreadful distresses, surprised

ſurpriſed and took Paita on the 12th of November, 1741, and having plundered and burnt the town, and ſeized ſeveral Spaniſh ſhips, he on his return, by the way of the Eaſt Indies, took the Manilla galleon, loaded with treaſure. He arrived in England in 1744, with the riches he had acquired from the Spaniards, amounting to about 400,000l.

His late Majeſty George the II. powerfully ſupported the Queen of Hungary's ſucceſſion to the hereditary dominions of her father the Emperor Charles VI. and at length Britain and France, under the name of auxiliaries to the contending parties, became principals in the war: when his Britannic Majeſty not only furniſhed 16,000 Britiſh troops, but in perſon headed the allied army in Germany, accompanied by the Duke of Cumberland; and a battle was fought at Dettingen, June 16, 1743, when the King of Great Britain had the glory of the field. The Duke of Cumberland was wounded in the action.

In 1744, war was declared againſt France; and in 1745, the people of New England, aſſiſted by ten men of war under Commodore Warren, took Cape-Breton, with the loſs

loſs of only 100 men; but were afterwards obliged to part with it for Madraſs.

On the 14th of July the young Pretender ſailed to Scotland in a ſmall frigate, and landed there on the 27th of July. He ſoon obtained a conſiderable force, and proceeding through ſeveral parts of Scotland, had his father proclaimed King, while he himſelf aſſumed the title of Prince-Regent. He took ſeveral places, and gained ſome advantages over the King's forces ſent againſt him; but at length the Duke of Cumberland went to Edinburgh, and took the command of the army, and on the 15th of April came to an engagement near Culloden-houſe and obtained a complete victory, in which about 1400 of the rebels were killed, wounded and taken priſoners, tho' the royal army had only 60 men killed, and 280 wounded. The Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Balmerino, Lord Lovat, and Mr. Radcliffe, brother to the late Earl of Derwentwater, were afterwards beheaded on Tower-Hill for this rebellion.

Hoſtilities at length ceaſed in Flanders, and a general peace was proclaimed in London, February 2, 1749. The French, however, ſoon broke the peace by erecting forts on

on the back of the British settlements in America, and in 1754, attempted to seize Nova Scotia: these depredations brought on several engagements, which were attended with various success.

Mean while the French landed 17,000 men in Minorca, which was defended by General Blakeney. His Majesty declared war against France on the 15th of May 1756, and sent Admiral Byng with a strong fleet to the relief of Minorca; but he neglecting to fulfil his instructions, the place was lost, and he was tried and shot at Portsmouth.

During these transactions, colonel Clive distinguished himself in the East Indies; and all the towns and factories belonging to the French on the coast of Coromandel, except only Pondicherry, were in a few years taken by the British.

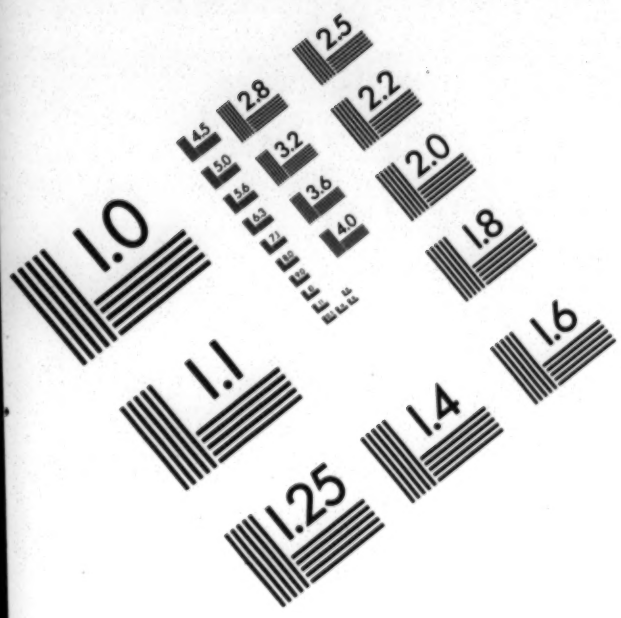
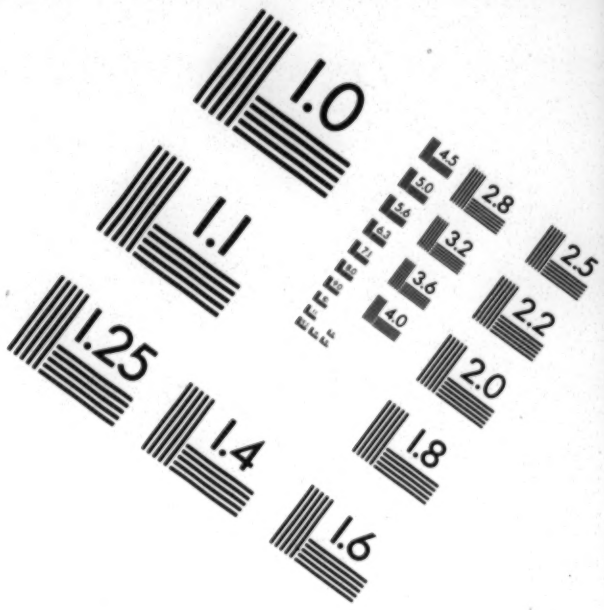
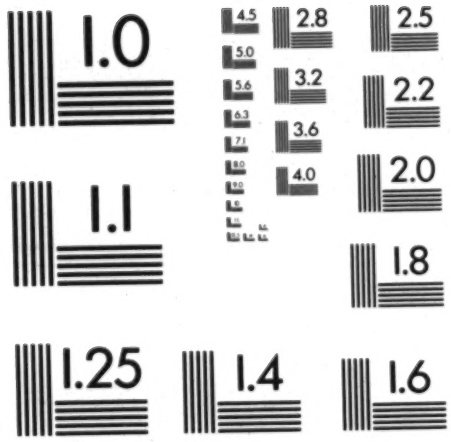
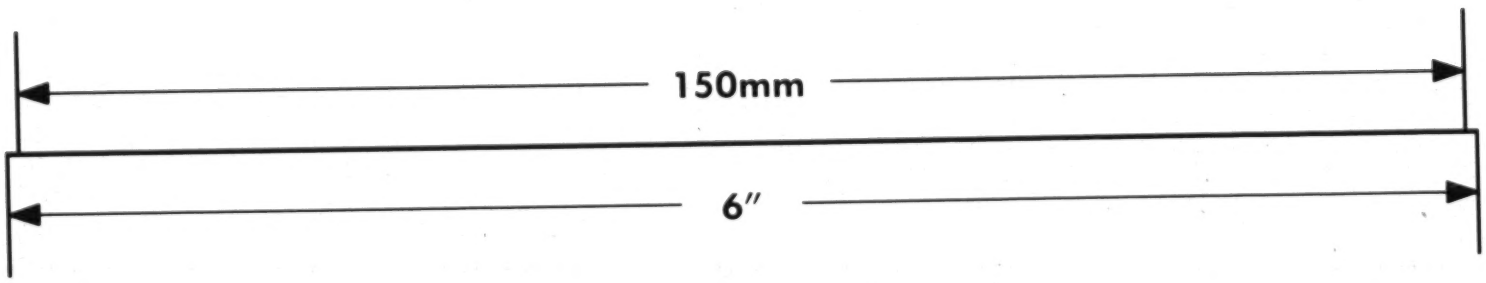
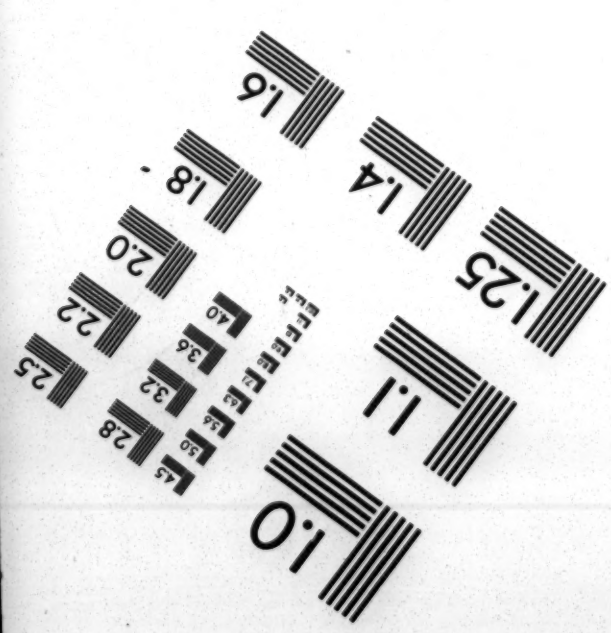
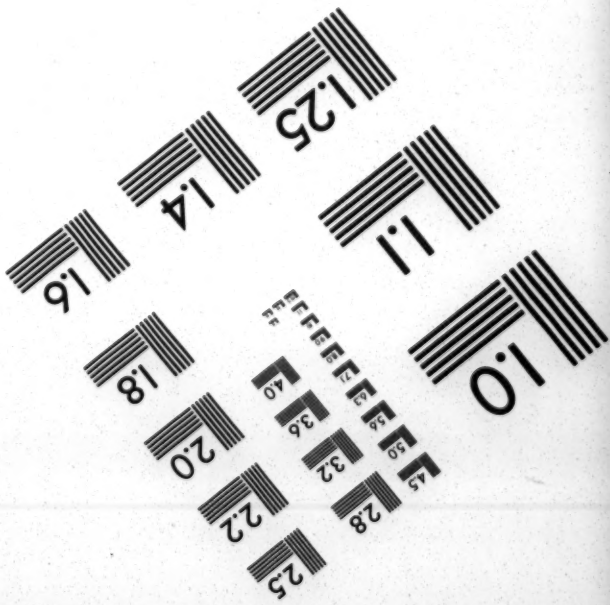
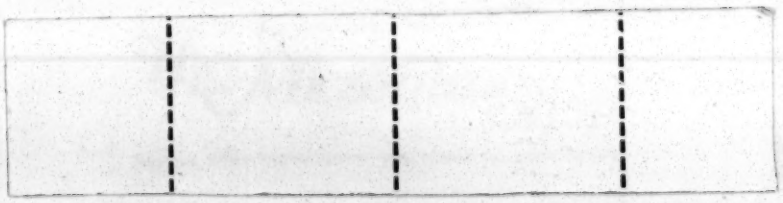
In 1758 the Duke of Marlborough landing near St. Maloes in France, burnt many ships, with a great quantity of naval stores. Lieutenant General Bligh and Captain (now Lord) Howe, took Cherburgh, and demolished its fortifications. Soon after Captain Marsh took Senegal, and Commodore Keppel took the island of Goree, on the coast of

of Africa. On the 26th of July, Cape Breton was again taken by General Amherſt and Admiral Boſcawen. Soon after fort Frontenac ſurrendered to Lieutenant General Bradſtreet and fort du Queſne to General Forbes.

On May 1, 1759, the valuable iſland of Gaudaloupe, ſurrendered to the Britiſh, and the ſame month Marigalante, Santos and Deſeada, became ſubject to Britain. And the ſame year, the French loſt Quebec, the capital of Canada.

In 1760, Thurot landing with three frigates in the bay of Carrickfergus, they were all taken by Captain Elliot, and on Sept. 8, Montreal and all Canada ſubmitted to the Britiſh. But after theſe glorious conqueſts his Majeſty King George II. to the inexpreſſible grief of his people, died at Kenſington, on the 25th of October, in the 77th year of his age, and the 34th of his reign; and the next day his preſent moſt gracious Majeſty was proclaimed King by the name of George III.

*FINIS.*

BL 30.9.8

# IMAGE EVALUATION
# TEST TARGET (MT-3)